



THE  
INDIAN STUDENT'S  
LETTER-WRITER

BY

UPENDRA NATH SEN, M. A., B. L., LL. B.

AND

JATINDRA NATH SEN.

Second Edition, 2,000 ~~Total 3,000~~

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PUBLISHED BY RAM NARAIN <sup>as hoped, however,</sup>  
*Bookseller, Allahabad* THE AUTHORS

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## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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If the methods of educating our young men had been directed to their proper channel, so important a subject as the art of letter-writing should have received greater attention than is bestowed on it. There is hardly any composition, which is received and read with more avidity by men, than the epistolary correspondence of their children reading at a distant school. Applications for leave of absence, for grant of scholarships, for admission or withdrawal, from students to schoolmasters, always lay the former to a severer examination of their breeding, sense, and ability, than an oral discourse or any other form of writing. And, yet, with humiliation it must be confessed, neither parents nor schoolmasters afford, in the course of their boys' education any facility for forming a style in writing letters, which would be the more a source of gratification and entertainment to themselves, and of advantage to the boys in the conduct of life, the less free it was from inaccuracy and impropriety.

The greatest drawback is, there is no text book exactly suitable for our purpose. The numerous "Letter-Writers" published in England or those published in this country in imitation of the former give far greater prominence to the requirements of suitors, traders, gardeners, parish doctors, etc. than those of the Indian student, and are, in a way, useless to him.

This little book is the first attempt, so far as we know, that has been made to present to Indian students a very cheap and handy treatise on the art of writing letters, such only as they have the occasion to pen in all the occurrences of their school or college career. Letters on love, marriage, courtship and like subjects have been excluded, while due prominence has been given to such as a student may have to write to his headmaster, principal, friends, and relatives. Letters on business and for appointments have of course been given.

The book is intended mainly for students; it is hoped, however, it may also be found useful by clerks and others.

THE AUTHORS.

*15th September, 1891.*

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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It is highly gratifying to find that schoolmasters have gradually been recognising the necessity of teaching their boys how to write letters. The first year this little book was out, none cared to send for more than a single copy. And now applications are received from almost every district in these provinces for 10, 20 and even 50 copies at a time. The Director of Public Instruction, in the curriculum issued by him in July last, prescribed letter-writing as one of the subjects to be taught in the Middle classes, and this, it must be acknowledged, has been contributing not a little to the rapid sale of our work.

The use of this book is not confined to N-W P and Oudh, but it is also used in some schools of Behar and Bengal.

In return for favour shown to us, the present edition has been carefully revised. The number of letters has been increased, and some new features have been introduced.

THE AUTHORS.

*18th August, 1897*

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# THE INDIAN STUDENT'S LETTER-WRITER.

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## CHAPTER I.

### FORMS OF DATE, ADDRESS, SUBSCRIPTION, ETC.

All letters follow a certain method as to *forms of date, address, etc* at their beginning, and *forms of subscription, etc* at their end. The use of these methods has become so universal that to depart from them would betray ill-breeding and ignorance.

**Date and Address** — In *letters to heads of Schools and Colleges, and to friends and relatives*, the regular rule is to write the *address* of the sender and *date* at the *top* of the paper on the *right hand side*. The name of official designation or only the designation of the head of a School or College should be written on the *left hand side*, a little below the date. In ordinary letters, the name and address of the *person written to* is placed at the *end* of the letter on the *left hand side*. The name of the *writer* is found from the signature alone.

The *date* should be written in the form *15th May, 1888*, or *May 15th, 1888*, or the ordinal sign (*th*) may be omitted, and the date written *15 May, 1888*.

The words *dated* and *the* before the date, as *Dated the 15th May, 1888*, should never be used in letters to friends and relatives.

In letters between intimate friends and relatives, the name of the person written to, (which is usually inserted at the end of the letter on the left hand side,) is omitted.

When familiar notes are exchanged between friends at the same station, the address of the sender need not be given, and instead of the date, the day of the week may be inserted.

Sometimes in familiar letters, the address of the writer and date are given at the end of the letter on the left hand side

In letters on business, the name of the firm to which a letter is sent is usually written on the left hand side, a little below the address of the sender and date. A short form of the date is sometimes thus used in business letters — 15/5/88. This implies "15th May, 1888", the /5/ standing for May, which is the 5th month in the year. For 15/5/88, 15-5-88 may be substituted

In letters for appointments, the name of the person to which an application is made is written on the left hand side. In such letters, the form 15/5/88 is never employed

**Name of Addressee** — In letters to friends and relatives, when it may be necessary to give the name of the addressee at the top or the end, it should be given in full with *Mr* or *Babu* at the commencement, or *Esq* at the end of the name. Two different titles, such as *Mr* along with *Esq*, should in no case be given

In letters to teachers and applications for appointments, *Esq* would be more respectful than *Mr*

*Messrs* is the usual form of title to firms, as, Messrs. Goodman and Sons, Messrs Aibuthnot, Stanley and Co

In letters addressed to Clergymen, the title *Rev* or *The Rev* is used before the name as, *The Rev H Lorbeer*. If the initial is not known, the student should write *The Rev Mr Lorbeer*, but not *The Rev Lorbeer*

**The form of Address** — Depends altogether upon the amount of intimacy or the degree of relationship existing between the writer and the addressee.

The form *Dear Mr. Ram Chandra* or *My dear Babu Tulsī Ram* implies a certain degree of intimacy. When the person written to is a familiar acquaintance or friend of the writer, the *Babu* or *Mr* (as the case may be), is generally dropped, and *Dear Ram*, or *My dear Ram* is the form used.

In writing to a mere acquaintance, the form *Dear Sir* is employed

In writing to a brother, *Dear Brother*, or *My dear Brother* is used, and so to a sister, *My Dear Sister*. To a parent, *My dear Father*, or *Dear Father*, *Dear Mother*, or *My dear Mother*. *Dear Sir* or *Dear Madam* may be used. To a younger brother, the form *My dear Harkishen* (*Harkishen* being the name), may be given

*Sir*—Is the most formal, though a comprehensive form, and may with propriety be used to the highest official as well as to a shopkeeper. (1) It must be used in all official letters. (2) It may be used in a letter to any body with whom the writer is not familiar. (3) It may be used to a subordinate, a servant, or a relative, when the writer does not choose to be familiar with him

The forms *Honoured Sir*, *Respected Sir* so frequently used by Indian writers in addressing superior officials, are contrary to modern usage.

The form *Dear Sir* is less informal than *Sir*, and may be used to all with whom the writer, if he is not on intimate terms, would not maintain a cold relation.

To the Principal or Headmaster of an institution, *Sir* or *Dear Sir* is used. If the teacher be a clergy man, it is proper to write *Rev Sir*, or *Rev. and Dear Sir*, the *Rev.* being a contraction of *Reverend*.

*Sirs*, *Gentlemen*, *Dear Sirs*, are the forms used in addressing mercantile firms.

The initial form of address may be repeated before the subscription, but it must not be used in a different form from that used in the address. It is improper to begin a letter with "Dear Sir" and to end it with "I remain, Sir." Here "I remain, Dear Sir" would be correct.

**Body of letter.**—For body of the letter, see the next chapter on *Style*.

**Forms of Subscription**—The method of ending a letter is no less important than that of beginning it, so that especial care is needed for learning it.

In *letters to relatives*, the relationship is usually expressed by the subscription, *Your loving brother*, *Your affectionate son*, *Your dutiful son*, *Your loving son*. Or, the subscription may simply be *Yours affectionately*.

In letters to very intimate and dear friends, the usual subscription is *Yours affectionately*, or, more simply, *Ever yours*, *Yours ever*, *Yours always*.

Less familiar forms of subscription than the above are *Yours sincerely*, *Yours very sincerely*, *Yours very truly*, or *Ever yours sincerely*, *Ever yours truly*, or they may be written *Sincerely yours*, *Very sincerely yours*, *Truly yours*, etc.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT BROWN

The above is the strictly official form of subscription. It may be used in all letters for appointments. In such letters, less informal forms than the above which may be used are *Yours obediently*, *Yours respectfully*.

A student writing to the head of a School or College may use the above official form of subscription or substitute the

word "pupil" for "servant" When, however, he uses the words "Dear Sir," the subscription must be —

I am, (*or* I remain,)  
 Dear Sir,  
 Your obedient Pupil,  
 (*or* YOURS OBEDIENTLY )  
 J. ADAMS.

*Yours faithfully* and *Your truly* are employed in ordinary correspondence and may be used in writing to any body. The first form expresses the least amount of familiarity, and may be used to a perfect stranger: it is generally used in business letters, when it may be contracted into *Yrs flly*

*Yours sincerely* is the form used between acquaintances and ordinary friends.

*Yours very sincerely* indicates a considerable amount of friendship.

When *Dear Sir*, or *Dear Madam* has been used, the forms *Yours faithfully*, *Yours truly*, *Yours obediently* may be used.

With *My dear Sir* or *My dear Madam*, the forms *Yours very truly*, *Yours very sincerely* may be adopted.

Before the strictly official form of subscription the expression "I am" or "I remain" or "I have the honor to be" must be used Before other forms of subscription, it may or may not be used

**Signature** — The name of the writer in ordinary letters is found from the signature only, which should be made immediately below the form of subscription In letter on business in particular, the name should be written most legibly. A candidate for a public examination had the mortification of sending three letters in succession to the Registrar for a form and yet not obtaining it in time for the mere reason that his signature was illegible It is essential that the receiver of a letter should know from whom it comes, and when this could not be ascertained at the first glance, both delay and loss might ensue





The following will furnish a correct idea of the general form of a letter —

No. 1.—To THE HEAD OF A SCHOOL.

(A)

Daraganj, Allahabad.

4th July, 1892.

(B)

To

THE HEADMASTER,

DISTRICT SCHOOL,

Allahabad.

(C)

SIR,

(D)

My father is ill, and there is no one at home other than myself to attend to him. Will you therefore be kind enough to grant me leave of absence till my father is sufficiently cured to dispense with my attendance? My father says he will be much obliged to you if you will grant me this favour.

(E)

I remain,

SIR,

Yours obediently,

SULTAN MIRZA,

8th Class.

(F)

To

THE HEADMASTER,

DISTRICT SCHOOL,

Allahabad.

( 8 )

No. 2 —To A CLASS-FRIEND

(A)

MY DEAR RAGHUBIR,

(B)

It will give me much pleasure to call at your place, as desired, punctually at four.

(C)

Yours most sincerely,  
GUR PERSHAD.

(D)

Sabzimandi,  
*Sunday.*

(E)

BABU RAGHUBIR PRASAD  
*Jhansz.*

No 3 —To A RELATIVE

(A)

GULABGANJ., AGRA  
*17th May, 1892*

(B)

MY DEAR FATHER,

(C)

I reached here safe this morning; you need not be anxious for me. More hereafter With Pronams to you,

(D)

I remain,  
Your affectionate son,  
JUGAL KISHORE

(E)

Stamped.
----------

BABU RAM BEHARI LAL,  
Pleader,  
*Dharmore.*

No. 4.—TO AN ACQUAINTANCE.

(A)  
BAZAJA, LAHORE ;  
15th August, 1893.

(B)  
DEAR SIR, (C)  
I am in receipt of your letter. I will send you the information as soon as it is obtained. You need not serve me with a reminder.

(E)  
BABU DOMAN LAL.

(D)  
Yours truly,  
JAY CHAND.

(F)

Stamped.

BABU DOMAN LAL,  
Pleader, Chief Court,  
Indore

No 5.—TO A BUSINESS FIRM.

(A)  
DALMANDI, UNAO ;  
17-7-91.

(B)  
MESSRS THACKER, SPINK, & Co.,

(C)  
DEAR SIR, (D)  
Have the goodness to send the following books per V. P. P. and oblige

(E)  
Yours faithfully,  
CHINTAMAN LAL.

(F)

Stamped

MESSRS THACKER, SPINK, & Co.,  
SELLERS, PUBLISHERS, ETC.,  
Calcutta.

No 6 —APPLICATION

(A)

KATRA ROAD, ALLAHABAD ,  
17th April, 1893

(B)

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
Appointment Department,

*Simla*

(C)

SIR,

(D)

I respectfully beg that you will favour me with a copy of rules for the ensuing Subordinate Executive service examination of Bengal

(E)

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

TULSI RAM

(F)

Stamped
---------

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,  
Appointment Department,  
*Simla*

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CHAPTER II

STYLE OF LETTERS, ETC.

The style of letters varies with the nature of the correspondence. Letters on *business* should be correct in statement,

clear in meaning and concise in form. Letters to *friends* and *relatives* should be the copies of conversation, that is, written in a conversational style. Consider what you would say to your friend or relative, if he were sitting by you, and write down the very things you would then speak. According to Cowper, no mean judge of letters, "talking letters" are the pleasantest. The style of letter for appointment should be dignified. Letters to teachers should be respectful. They hold an intermediate place between letters to relatives and letters for appointments. Letters for appointments must not be made the vehicles for conveying sentiments or appeals to personal feelings.

A careful attention to the rules of orthography and syntax is of the highest importance. Students of the lower forms should make their sentences short, as this is the only safeguard against grammatical errors. The temptation of using long words from the dictionary, the meaning of which is not properly understood, should be carefully avoided. Stale quotations and extracts from writers like Johnson, mixed with unidiomatic English are objectionable. Exaggerated expressions of regard and profuse compliments, common in an Oriental Vernacular, are altogether opposed to English taste.

The habit of underlining every word with a view to make it emphatic is objectionable. Each word should be so placed in a sentence as to indicate by its very position any stress that is to be laid on it.

Too many parentheses in a sentence cause obscurity.

Abbreviations or contractions, such as *yrs* for *yours*, imply haste or negligence, and are, therefore, inadmissible except in commercial letters, but in familiar letters, conversational contractions, such as *I'm*, *I'll*, *don't* are permissible.

Postscripts indicate thoughtlessness, and should be avoided in formal correspondence.

SAMPLE LETTERS

Some sample letters are here given, showing the kind of phraseology suitable in (1) letters on business, (2) letters to friends and relatives, (3) letters of applications for appointments, (4) letters to teachers, (5) Letters of Introduction, (6) Letters of Congratulation, and (7) Letters of Condolence

(1)—LETTERS ON BUSINESS

No 1 —(Asking for some books)

LAL DARWAZA, GHAZIPUR ,

*15th June, 1893.*

To LALA RAM NARAIN LAL,

BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER,

*Allahabad.*

DEAR SIR (*or* SIR),

I shall be obliged if you will send me the books named in the accompanying list I have sent a money order which will cover the price of the books and postage, etc

Yours faithfully,

INAYET MASIH

No 2—(Asking for a Catalogue)

KAISARBAGH, LUCKNOW ,

*15-9-92.*

To MESSRS THACKER, SPINK, & Co ,

*Calcutta*

DEAR SIRs (*or* GENTLEMEN, *or* SIRs),

I shall be obliged if you will kindly send me your latest catalogue of school books, as I am in need of a number of books for which I shall possibly send you an order

Yours faithfully,

BHAGWAN DIN.

No 3 —(Subscribing to a Newspaper )

KATRA, ALLAHABAD,

30-6-93.

THE MANAGER,

"Statesman and Friend of India,"

*Calcutta*

DEAR SIR (or SIR),

I request you will place my name down in the list of your subscribers to the weekly edition of the "Statesman." Please find enclosed herein a cheque for Rs 8 in payment of subscription for one year from 1st July, 1893 to 30th June, 1894.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

RAJ KISHORE LAL.

No 4 —(Opening Account at a Post Office Savings Bank )

21. CHINTAMANI'S LANE, CALCUTTA ;

*15th March, 1893*

To THE POSTMASTER,

BRADON POST OFFICE,

*Calcutta*

SIR,

I have the pleasure to enclose currency notes to the value of Rupees 25 and request that you will be good enough to place the same to the credit of an account to be opened in my name.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

BINODE BEHARI GUPTA.



No 5 —(Complaining of an error in an account )

PIPAL MANDI, AGRA ,

27th May, 1892

TO MESSRS NEWBURY, SMITH, & Co

DEAR SIRS

On examining the account you have sent me of the books upphed during the present month, I find that you have charged me for 10 copies of Hunter's "History of India" and a copy of Brewer's "Handbook of Allusions" that I neither sent for nor received. If you will look at the orders sent you and at the list of books despatched, you will discover the mistake that has been evidently made in your office. I hope you will send me a corrected bill.

Yours faithfully,

RAM DAS

As has already been stited, a student writing a business letter must always bear in mind three cautions, he must be *correct*, *clear*, and *concise*. Merely to order for a box of nibs will not do, for a box may contain 500 nibs, while the student probably wants only 50. Legibility is also of great importance, or the writer may experience something similar to the Etawah merchant, who wrote for five thousand *mangoes* and received from Agra a cart load of *monkeys* with an assurance that more should follow as soon as a fresh collection could be made.

Expressions of friendship in a letter on business, such as "With kind regards" or "Hoping that you are well" seem absurd.

## (2)—LETTERS TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

No 1—To a fellow-student

MY DEAR BENI MADHO,

The School closes, I hear, on Thursday, the 4th instant. Please let me know if you intend to leave

Benares the very first day of the vacation. If so, we might travel together, so far at least as Gahmai. I go by the evening mail.

Sincerely yours,  
MISSER POKHRA ; TUESDAY. NEWAL KISHORE.

No 2 —Reply to the above

MY DEAR NEWAL,

I had no mind to start on the very first day, but as you go that day I shall be very glad to have you as a fellow-passenger. I shall call at your place this evening to arrange matters

Yours sincerely,  
BENI MADHO.

Wednesday morning.

No 3 —To a brother

BOARDING HOUSE ;  
25th April, 1891.

MY DEAR SADHO SARAN.

I got your letter a week ago. I hope you will not think my past silence at all in need of apology, when you remember that our examination only closed on Tuesday. I know you are very anxious to hear how I did at the examination, but I am afraid it would be premature to say at present anything definitely about it. The result will be out in a month and then you may have your curiosity satisfied. The law classes have not yet closed, and I can't go away before the vacation. Believe me, I am as much anxious to see you as you say you are to see me. But there is no help. With my love to you and mother dear,

I remain,  
Your affectionate brother,  
RAM SARAN LAL.

P. S. Mother, I am afraid, will be angry at the vague account I have given of my examination. Well then, tell her I have done fairly well, though not quite as well as I expected.

No 4 —(To a father )

3, MIRZAPUR STREET, CALCUTTA ,

*July 9th, 1893*

MY DEAR FATHER,

I have hardly time to write you a long letter, but the pleasing nature of my intelligence, will, I hope, make up for its shortness

After a week's examination, I am decided to be the first student of my class—an honor I scarcely hoped for, since my reading had been so very broken and interrupted. The contest was very stiff, and the boys all acquitted themselves very well. You can hardly conceive with what pleasure my friends flocked round me, the day the result was announced. I found many of them seeking me all over the school, in order to be the first to communicate the good tidings

I am now entitled to a scholarship amounting to fifteen rupees a month, so that, my dear father, as long as I hold this scholarship I shall no more require the sum, you have been straining yourself so long to send me every month. The scholarship is tenable for 10 months. My situation is now very favourable, and I believe my way through school clear before me. You need not, therefore, I pray, be in the least anxious on my account

Tell my dear mother that my thoughts are often with her. Never do I lay myself on the bed until my parents have passed before me in my prayers, and never do I find myself asleep, until I have sent many a sad and sweet reflection after them

With my best love to you and mother,

I remain,

My dear father,

Your affectionate and dutiful son,  
JAGERNATH PRASAD.

The best directions for writing letters to friends and relatives are. ' Write as you speak : write just what you have to say : write exactly the things you feel ' Students should carefully obey these directions

(S)—APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

No 1 —(In answer to an advertisement for a clerk)

JHAT LAL'S BAZAR, LUCKNOW .  
*31st March, 1894*

To

K —75.

SIR,

HAVING seen your advertisement in the "Express" for a clerk on a salary of Rs 15 I beg leave to apply for the vacant situation in your office

I have only recently left school and possess no actual experience of a clerk's duties, but being able to calculate accurately and write neatly, I probably could make myself useful in a very short time

I enclose copies of my testimonials vouching for my respectability and character from the head master of the school which I attended

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

KARIM BAKHSH.

No 2 —(In answer to an advertisement for a clerk)

[ADVERTISEMENT PASTED IN\*]

THANDI SARAK, CAWNPORE ;  
*15th June, 1893*

To

THE CONTROLLER OF STORES, E I RLY.

*Cawnpore.*

SIR,

Permit me to address you on the subject of the above

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\* Some applicants cut the advertisement from the paper in which it is inserted and paste it neatly at the head of their sheet.

advertisement for a clerk practically acquainted with book-keeping and accounts

I passed the School Final Examination of the University of Madras in 1889, and as I looked forward to trading or mercantile pursuits in after life, my optional branch had consisted of book-keeping, accounts and commercial correspondence

I have been serving as a clerk in the office of Messrs Hume, Stanley & Co., Kinari Bazar, for upwards of two years. I have now gained a thorough knowledge of the system of book-keeping, and have been accustomed to deal with accounts of almost every kind

Copies of testimonials from the university and the firm by which I am at present employed are herewith forwarded

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,  
RAMASWAMI AIYAR

No 3 —(In answer to an advertisement for a private tutor)

BABU AGANJ, PATNA,

6th September, 1891.

To

MAULVI MEHDI ALI SAHIB,

*Bankipur*

SIR,

Having seen your notice in the advertisement columns of the "Patna Gazette" for a private tutor for your son, I beg leave to offer my services

I have passed the F A Examination of the Calcutta University, being placed in Class I, and am at present preparing for the pleadership examination of the Calcutta High Court

I have got some experience in private teaching, having coached a son of Munshi Gaubai Ali for the late Minor Examination, which he passed successfully. I was also the

private tutor of the nephew of Babu Parmeshwar Narain Mahta, Zamindar, Bah, for 2 years. I beg to enclose copies of testimonials from these gentlemen.

I should be able to give you any time that you might wish for, except the evening, when I am required to attend the law class

My age is twenty-three years The salary I expect is Rs 30 a month for 2½ hours' daily attendance.

I remain,  
SIR,  
Yours obediently,  
RAHAT HUSAIN.

No 4—(For employment)

SADARBAZAR, LUCKNOW ;  
*10th June, 1889.*

To

THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS,  
2ND CIRCLE,  
*Lucknow.*

SIR,

I respectfully beg leave to bring for your kind consideration the following facts —

I am a son of the late Babu Bhuvan Mohan Rai, who served as a clerk in your office till his recent unexpected death This calamity has thrown our family into very great pecuniary difficulties, and, from comparative affluence, we have been suddenly reduced to poverty.

I passed the B. A. Examination in 1887, and gained a place in the Second Division at that examination. Also at the F. A. and the Entrance Examination, I was placed in the Second Grade.

The enclosed copies of testimonials from the Principal and the Headmaster of the Canning College will vouch for my merits.

May I therefore, under these circumstances pray that you will assist me either by giving me a post in your office, or by writing to heads of schools on my behalf? I take the liberty to make this request on the strength of my father's long and faithful service under your immediate control

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant

SHARAT KUMAR RAI

In applications for appointments, only such circumstances should be stated as strengthen the applicant's claim, such as the education he has got, the examinations he has passed, the appointments he has held, together with any special qualifications he may have for the situation. Personal details as to the applicant's poverty or the large family dependent on him (except in cases, of which the last letter furnishes an example), are out of place except in begging letters, and have no weight in determining the bestowal of an appointment

(4)—LETTERS TO TEACHERS

No 1—(Asking for leave of absence)

SARAN,

4th September, 1893

To

THE HEAD MASTER,

H E SCHOOL

Saran

SIR,

I have been suffering from acute dyspepsia since yesterday. May I request you to grant me leave of absence for the days I shall not be able to attend school in consequence?

I remain,

SIR,

Your most obedient pupil,

NARAIN DAS

Of the 4th Class

No 2 —(Applying for promotion )

FARRUKHABAD , 17th April, 1893.

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
MISSION HIGH SCHOOL,  
*Farrukhabad.*

SIR,

The result of the last annual examination shows that I have failed to secure marks sufficient for promotion to the Entrance class I have obtained pass marks in English and Mathematics, but have fallen short of the required one-third marks in second language, and History and Geography.

Under the University rules 25 per cent is the pass mark in the last two subjects, so that if I had appeared for the Entrance Examination, and secured as many marks as I have now got. I should have been regarded a successful candidate

My inability to obtain one-third marks in History and Geography is due to my late illness It cannot be denied, however, that I am weak in Sanskrit But my father has of late appointed a private tutor for me, who has promised to pull me up in this subject

Under the circumstances, I respectfully beg you will promote me on trial to the first class

I remain,

SIR,

Yours obediently,

BISHEN PERSHAD MISSER

No 3 —(Applying for a Transfer Certificate )

RANCHI, 4th October, 1893.

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
GERMAN MISSION SCHOOL,  
*Ranchi*

SIR,

My father has been transferred from here to Hazaribagh. I



request you therefore to kindly grant me a Transfer Certificate

I remain,

SIR,

Yours obediently,

RAM CHARAN

*Of the 4th Class*

No 4 (Returning thanks to a tutor upon success)  
To BABU LILADHAR JOSHI,

*Allahabad*

DEAR SIR,

Your most welcome telegram announcing my success in the Examination just to hand. You do not say in what grade I have been placed, but the very omission tells me it can only be the third.

If I failed to send you any letter so long, it was because I had been daily expecting from you a communication of my result.

I just get it and I feel I should be guilty of an ingratitude of the deepest dye, if I did not sit down to pour out to you the effusions of a sincerely grateful heart.

Permit then, my beloved tutor, one of the humblest of your many pupils, to return you his heartfelt thanks for the kind interest which, I feel persuaded, has so materially contributed to his success. Whether I have been placed in the first division or the last is immaterial, that I have been passed at all is due solely and wholly to your exertion. The entire school-going population of Fyzabad knows it, and I know and feel it better than any other person.

The headmaster of our school, while congratulating me on my success, told me that he would not have sent me up to the examination, if you had not come forward to my assistance. My father, when your telegram reached him, told me in plain language that the credit of my success belonged exclusively to you. Thus, Sir, you have earned not only my gratitude, but that of every person with whom I am closely connected.

A few more days, and I hope, by my father's leave, to join you at Allahabad. You cannot understand how very anxious I am to place myself again under your charge. In the meantime I pray that your interest in my welfare may never diminish.

I remain, Dear Sir,  
Your most respectful and obedient pupil,  
AMAR NATH.

SABZIMANDI, FYZABAD.  
25th June, 1897

#### (5)—LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION

Letters of Introduction should be brief, as they are generally read in the presence of the persons presenting them. English etiquette requires that they should be left unsealed, so that the bearer may be able to read what has been written about him.

No 1 —(Introducing one friend to another)

DEAR MAHABIR,—It is with sincere pleasure I avail myself of this opportunity of introducing to you one of my intimate friends, Lala Banbehari, about whom I remember having spoken to you many a time and oft. Now that his examination is over, he has determined to spend his brief leave of absence in your town, having a desire to visit the chief points of interest. I am perfectly sure that two friends so dear to me will, as they are united, find as great pleasure in each other's society as both of them have individually afforded me. Any attention, which it may be in your power to extend to my friend, during his stay in your town will be greatly appreciated by

Your sincere friend,  
KALI CHARAN.

AHYAGANJ, LUCKNOW:  
17th March, 1891

To BABU ANANT PRASAD,  
Agra.

No 2 —(Introducing a class-fellow)

MY DEAR DIP NARAIN,

The bearer of this is Lala Dargahi Lal, a class-friend of mine. He goes to Agra for visiting that " dream in marbles," the famous *Taj* of your town. If I mistake not, my chattering tongue has frequently introduced him to you. Any formal words of introduction, therefore, would be quite uncalled for. I merely bid you both love each other as dearly as you love me, and I feel sure I shall be obeyed.

Most lovingly yours,

KASHI NATH

ETAWAH

5th June, 1886

To BABU DIP NARAIN,

*Agra*

No 3 —(Introducing a friend seeking employment)

AGRA,

October 17th, 1894

MY DEAR GANESH PRASAD,—The bearer of this letter is Babu Gajadhar Rae, an undergraduate of the University of Allahabad. He goes to your town in the hope of finding some employment, and I take the privilege of old friendship to solicit your kind aid in his endeavours. He has been carefully educated, particularly in the study of Mathematics, and I feel assured you need have no hesitation in recommending him to any of your friends, who may need a private tutor.

Any attention you may be in a position to show to my friend will be gratefully acknowledged by

Your sincere friend,

JAG JIVAN PRASAD.

BABU GANESH PRASAD,

*Muttra*

## (6)—LETTERS OF CONGRATULATION.

Letters of congratulation should be expressions of heart-felt pleasure and good will. No painful subject should in any case be introduced into such letters. Care should be taken that no word of envy or discontent creeps into the composition or mars the virtue of the letter.

No 1 —(Congratulating a friend upon his success)

MUTTHIGUNJ, ALLAHABAD

7th May, 1897

MY DEAR ISMAIL,—My brother has just brought with him a copy of the *Government Gazette*, and I find your name published in it in the list of successful candidates. I do not know in what terms to express my heart-felt sympathy in your great joy. My most sincere congratulations, my dear friend, are yours. Please accept them.

You have been placed in the 1st grade, and, I believe, are entitled to a scholarship. That you may be able to keep up your determination of continuing your studies and to win yet brighter laurels in the future is the sincere prayer of

Your friend and well-wisher,

ABDUL JALIL

No 2 —(Congratulating a friend upon restoration to health)

BHARATIBHAVAN, BALASORE

16th February, 1891

MY DEAR SARJU,—Your brother's note, just to hand, tells me that you have sufficiently recovered from your late serious illness to be able to come down stairs again. This information gives me, as you may understand, so much happiness that I cannot delay offering you my heart-felt congratulations. Trusting that you may soon be as strong as ever,

I remain, my dear Sarju,

Ever faithfully yours,

AMBICA CHARAN

No. 3 —(Congratulating a friend upon his success in the  
LL B Examination )

SUTNA,

*December 17th 1895*

DEAR LALA CHHAIL BEHARI,—I am delighted to learn that your efforts are after all crowned with success, and you have grasped the diploma for which, in the midst of so many difficulties, you struggled with such zeal and patience. With hearty congratulations upon your success and wishing you a glorious future career,

I remain, dear Lala Chhail Behari,

Your sincere friend,

KRISHEN CHARITTAR

No 4 —(Congratulating a friend on his birth-day anniversary )

ANUPSHAHAR,

*March 17th, 1892*

MY DEAR KESHO RAM,—Permit me to offer you my sincere congratulations upon this, the anniversary of your fifteenth birth-day. All your class friends here unite with me in wishing you a thousand good wishes. Even our kind tutor desires me to say that it is his sincere prayer that every succeeding year may see you increase in all that is desirable in body and mind.

May Heaven bless your coming years, dear Kesho, is the earnest wish of

Your loving friend,

UDH BEHARI

#### (7) —LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE

To have to write letters of condolence is the most trying and painful task. Yet they must be written, as they tend to soothe the grief and alleviate the suffering of our friends and fellow-creatures in distress. In letters of condolence it

must never be insinuated that sorrow is wholly or partly due to any neglect or error on the part of the addressee. Such insinuations are highly insulting. Letters of condolence on death are written by Europeans on mourning paper.

No 1 —(To a friend on his failure)

FATEHPUR,

17th June, 1897.

MY DEAR JODH MAL,—I cannot express to you how deeply shocked and grieved I was not to find your name in the list of successful candidates published in to-day's issue of the *Government Gazette*. Hari Kant is observing that there has been a general massacre of candidates. There is some truth in the remark considering that of 3,400 candidates sent up but 700 have been passed. A letter from an Allahabad friend tells me that out of more than 50 boys sent up from the District School of that place, only 10 have been successful. The examiners have, it appears, raised the pass-marks, but they should have given due notice of it beforehand.

The complaint is of course general that the Answer-papers have been examined with unusual severity and that many boys who had a reasonable chance of success have been plucked. But that does not remove your cause for complaint, nor makes your grief less bitter. Our 8th master was at a loss to know why you should not have been passed, and was thinking of making a request through the head-master to the Registrar to have your papers re-examined. I am afraid, however, no good will come out of the representation, if it be at all made.

A sensible man like you ought to know how to receive misfortunes. I sincerely hope you will not allow yourself to be depressed too much, but soon discover the "silver

lining to a cloud " May God bless and sustain you and may better luck attend your next attempt !

With deepest friendship,

Your Sincerely,

RAMA KANT

No 2 —(To a friend suffering from a serious illness )

ARRAH ,

28th January, 1890

MY DEAR BATESHWAR —A letter from your father to the address of our teacher informs us of the illness from which you have been suffering I write this to express my sympathy and most earnest good wishes for your speedy recovery

A few more weeks now remain for the School Final Examination to be held That you should have an attack of illness, and such a severe attack, at this time, is indeed a pity I hope, however, to hear very soon that you are better

Mere words may be powerless to soothe actual pain, but, my dear friend, if there is any efficacy in fervent prayers, not only I, but all your friends here fervently pray that you may soon shake off your illness and be able to join us

Ever your friend,

MUJTABA HUSAIN

No 3 —(To the wife of a teacher on the death of that teacher )

PARTAPGARH

January 27th 1893

MADAM, —A paragraph in to-day's ' Advocate ' informs me of the melancholy news of your bereavement I do not send you this letter, making any attempt to soothe your grief Heaven alone can console you, and I know that all words of mine will sound cold and be totally inadequate

I wish to say as little as possible on this sad subject, too sad indeed for words. But, madam, I cannot refrain from expressing how irreparable the loss and severe the blow has been to myself. Mr. Rozario was to me more than a father, and everything that I could love, respect and admire. His untimely death has extinguished many a favourite hope of my mind and left numberless claimants on his kindness poor and miserable orphans.

I will not intrude any longer upon your privacy but conclude with the hope that, if I can in any way serve or relieve you, you will unhesitatingly call upon me

I remain Madam,  
Your most obedient servant,  
MULRAJ.

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### REMARKS ON DATE REFERENCES

In acknowledging letters from friends, firms, and others, the student may find it necessary to quote the dates on which they were received. For other purposes also a reference to dates may be needed. If the day be in any month preceding the month of writing, except the one immediately preceding, he should give the name of the month with addition of the word, "last." Thus, in acknowledging in the month of July a letter sent in May, he should say "I got your letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May last." If the day be in the month immediately preceding the month of writing the word *ultimo* which means 'last' or its contraction *ulto* should be given. Thus the expression "your favour of the 17<sup>th</sup> ulto." would imply "your letter written on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the last month." If the day be in the month of writing, the month is represented by *inst*, which is a contraction for *instant*, meaning "present." If a reference is to be made to a day in the month immediately following, instead of the name of the month *proco.* which is a contraction for *proximo* may be used. And when the reference is to be made to a day in



any other month *succeeding* that of writing, the name of the month with the word "next" should be given. A person writing on the 15th September would therefore thus refer to the following dates *in the same year* —

The 19th June	. . "The 19th June last "
The 14th August	.. 'The 14th ulto "
The 7th September	"The 7th Inst "
The 21st September	. "The 21st Inst "
The 28th October	"The 28th proxo "
The 17th December	"The 17th December next "

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### CHAPTER III

#### COMMON ERRORS IN LETTER-WRITING

And oblige — Not unfrequently do students write letters containing request in the following form —

"I shall be glad of any assistance from you in this case, and oblige ' etc.

Here the Verb "oblige" which is in the Imperative Mood has been joined by "and" with "shall be" which is in the Indicative Mood, and no blunder can be more glaring than this. The expression "and oblige" can grammatically be attached only to a Verb, which is in the same mood as this. It is correct to say "I shall be glad if you will assist me in this case and oblige yours sincerely" etc. "I will thank you to call this evening at my place and oblige yours sincerely" etc is equally correct.

Another mistake which students often commit in the use of this expression as an ending to letters containing request is to give a full stop after it, when grammatically no point should be placed between it and the name of the writer, which is its object, even though the name forms an alto-

gether fresh line. The following is a correct use of this expression :—

DEAR SIR,

I shall be glad if you will return me the book I lent you a week ago, and oblige

Yours faithfully,

HARI DAS.

After *and oblige* used as an ending to a letter containing request, the forms, “ I remain, ” “ With kind regards ” must never be used, but only “ yours sincerely, ” “ yours truly ” etc

Yours—The correct word is *Yours*, never *Your's*, though students often use the latter.

Yours obedient servant—This should be “ your obedient servant ” similarly, “ your loving husband, ” etc

Yours obediently—When a Noun follows, as in the above case, “ you ” is correct ; otherwise, it should be “ yours ”

Dear Harris Esq, M A—When *Dear*, *My dear* are used the use of *Esq*, or any honorific letters is improper We may say “ Dear Harris ” or “ Dear Mr Harris ”

Mr and Esq,—Two different titles, such as *Mr. J White*, *Esq*, or *Babu Mahabir Prasad, Esq*, should not be used together It is correct, however, to say “ The Hon. Mr. Justice Banerji ”

Dear Sir ! Dear William ?—The proper punctuation after the address is a comma, as *Sir, My dear Sir, My dear Roger*, and not, as is sometimes written, a note of admiration or of interrogation.

Polite Forms of Command and Request—Care should be taken to avoid inappropriate forms in making polite command and request The expressions *I will thank you to return my book*, *I will thank you to mind your business* imply anger or indignation and must not be used in making a request

## CHAPTER IV

### USE OF THIRD PERSON

When the writer wishes to impart a tone of formality to his letters they are usually written in the third person. This form is generally adopted in letters to tradesmen ordering goods in ceremonious invitations, and in private letters. When the writer begins his letter by once introducing the third person with reference to himself (instead of *I*), and with reference to the person written to (instead of *you*) care should be taken that this form is retained throughout the communication. The following may serve as examples —

No 1

Munshi Din Dayal will be obliged if Messrs Agarchand and Champa Lal will forward him the goods mentioned in the accompanying list at an early date per V P P

No 2

Mr J Brown will deem it a favour if Lala Ram Narain Lal will send him a copy of Balkrishen's senior Arithmetic per bearer, who will pay him the price thereof

No 3

Mr Gupta requests the pleasure of Mr Chatterji's company at dinner on Sunday, April 17th, at 9 o'clock

No 4

Mr Chatterji has much pleasure in accepting Mr Gupta's kind invitation to dinner on Sunday, April 17th

No 5

Mr Chatterji regrets that a previous engagement prevents him from accepting Mr Gupta's kind invitation to dinner on Sunday, April 17

No 6

Mr Abid Husain requests that Mr Hamid Ali will return per bearer the books which he borrowed of him more than three months ago, and notwithstanding various promises

never cared to return. He begs to suggest that if he has such great and constant need for the books, he had better buy copies for himself

No. 7.

Mr Charlu is happy in being able to enclose Mr Tilloo the sum for which he has been already too long his debtor. He begs to assure him that unforeseen disappointments have been the sole cause of his want of punctuality

In these notes the address and date may be put at the end on the left-hand side, as in the following example —

Mr. Gaya Peishad presents his compliments to Mr H. Das and requests the pleasure of his company at dinner on Wednesday next at half-past seven o'clock.

RAIGANJ,  
*Monday evening.*

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## CHAPTER V.

### LETTERS FROM STUDENTS TO PARENTS, &c

No 1 —(From a son to his mother expressing artless yearning and affectionate grief)

*Boarding House, August 14.*

MY DEAR MAMMA,—I must confess that I have been a little disappointed at not receiving a letter from home to-day. I hope, however, for one to-morrow. My spirits are far more depressed by leaving home than they were last half-year. Everything brings home to my recollection. Everything I read, or see, or hear brings it to my mind. You told me I should be happy when I once came here, but not an hour passes, in which I do not shed tears at thinking of home. Every hope, however unlikely to be realised, affords me some small consolation. The morning on which I went, you told me that possibly I might come home before the holidays. If you can confirm that hope, believe me when I assure you there is nothing which I would not give for one instant's

sight of home Tell me in your next, expressly, if you can, whether or no there is any likelihood of my coming home before the holidays If I could gain papa's leave, I should select my birthday, October 25, as the time which I should wish to spend at that home which absence renders still dearer to me I think I see you sitting by papa, just after his dinner, reading my letter and turning to him with an inquisitive glance at the end of the paragraph I think, too, that I see his expressive shake of the head at it O, may I be mistaken ! you cannot conceive what an alteration a favourable answer would produce on me If your approbation of my request depends upon my advancing in study, I will work like a cart-horse If you should refuse it, you will deprive me of the most pleasing illusion which I ever experienced in my life  
 Pray do not fail to write speedily

Your dutiful and affectionate son,  
 T B MACAULAY

No 2 —(From a son, announcing the coming vacation )

KRISHNANAGAR :

May 5, 1893

DEAR FATHER,

It is with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure that I announce to you the conclusion of one half year's stay at school On the 12th inst I shall hope to return home, and, if I may judge by the result of the last examination, I trust you will not be dissatisfied with my progress during the last five months

I remain, dear father,  
 Your affectionate and dutiful son,  
 GOCUL PRASAD BANERJI

No 3 —(From a son reporting progress.)

GOSWAMI PARA, HUGHLI.

12 October, 1892.

MY DEAR PARENTS,

It will, doubtless, give you much pleasure to learn that, owing to the unremitting attention of our teacher, Mr Boys,

I have made so satisfactory a progress, that I have not only been promoted one class higher in the school, but have carried off the first prize for mathematics

I sincerely hope that I may continue sufficiently industrious to keep up to all the expectations you have formed of me, and which you have spared no pains or expense to realise. With mingled feelings of regret at leaving my class-friends, and of delight at the prospect of our speedy meeting for the holidays,

I remain, my dearest parents,  
With kindest love to all at home,  
Your affectionate and dutiful son,  
POORNA CHANDRA MOITRA.

No 4 —(From a little boy wanting to come home)

CHURPRA.

*17th February, 1896.*

DEAR MAMMA,—O ! I am so tired of this place ! I cannot learn so many things at once ; and I cannot bear going to bed without kissing you. You know, Mamma, I have never been away from you before, and I feel as if I should die of grief, if you did not let me come home again. *Do*, Mamma, *do*, and I will love you for ever.

Your miserable child,  
CHANDRA BHAN.

No 5 —(From a son attempting to write a letter)

BIJNOR,

*28th September, 1894.*

MY DEAR FATHER,—Will you not be glad to find that I am after all able to write a letter ? It is not a long one, but I hope it will please you. I will send you long letters by and by

Your loving son,  
KEDAR NATH.

No 6 —(From a son requesting his father's  
permission to pay visit )

JAYENDRAGUNJ, GWALIOR ;  
*12th May, 1890*

MY DEAR FATHER,

Hariharnath Muttoo, one of my class fellows, has had leave to ask me to spend a week or two at his father's during the coming holidays

Pundit Srikrishen is a gentleman farmer, and his son is a very clever, agreeable boy about my own age. If you see no harm in it, I should like very much to go, even for a few days only. Harihar tells me that the fine fresh country air of his father's estate would do me good, and please me greatly

I hope you will give me leave to go with him, and when I go home afterwards, I will describe to you all my experience of the place

I remain,  
My dear father,  
Your affectionate son,  
RAJJAN LAL

No 7 —(From a son thanking his father for  
being permitted to pay the visit )

JAYENDRAGUNJ, GWALIOR ,  
*22nd May, 1890*

MY DEAR FATHER,

I am very grateful to you for giving me leave to accompany Hariharnath to his relatives during the holidays and for sending me the money order. He is very much pleased that you have consented, and tells me that we shall be very happy

But while enjoying the holidays, I shall be always thinking of my dear home and its inmates, and nothing will induce me to remain longer than a week

I will not forget to thank Pundit Srikrishen, as you wish, and will ask him to allow Hantharnath to spend a few days with me, when I leave his house. If he consents, I shall be delighted, for we are growing firmer friends every day. I hope you will like him as much as I do; for I should be very sorry, if you did not find him as good as I have led you to expect.

With love to mother and yourself,

I remain,  
Ever your affectionate son,  
RAJJAN LAL.

No 8 —(Respecting the visit)

HALDIPUR,  
27th May, 1890.

MY DEAR FATHER,

Since I wrote telling you of our safe arrival here, I have been very comfortable and happy. Pundit Srikrishen and the ladies of the house are so kind, that I feel as if they were old friends, instead of being almost strangers. They say I must visit them as often as possible, and while I am staying with them, put my books aside, and enter thoroughly into the enjoyments of country life. This is the only way, they say, in which I shall get strong and healthy, after the severe study I went through in order to win my last prize.

I am sure I ought to be very thankful for all their attentions, especially when I am a person of no importance to them.

I like this kind of life very much, and if ever I become rich, I will buy land and turn farmer. I wish you and mother were here; you would both enjoy the sweet air of the fields and the green slopes at the back of the house.



Haribarnath and I rise very early and take a long ramble before breakfast. We come back very hungry, and do justice to the rich dishes supplied us.

Pundit Srikrishen has consented to Haribarnath going home with me on Saturday next, and remaining a few days with us. He will drive us over to the railway station himself.

You need not be at all anxious on my account.

I remain,  
Your affectionate son,  
RAJJAN LAL

No 9 —(From a son to his father, requesting leave of absence from school)

COTTON INSTITUTE  
17th December, 1885

MY DEAR FATHER,—You were kind enough to promise me, when I last left home that you would give me anything in reason that I chose to request, when I had thoroughly mastered the whole of Geometry, Book I. My tutor is ready to certify that I have won the promised reward.

And now, my dear father, my request is to be allowed to come home for one week. I have studied faithfully all this session, and Mr Ghose is perfectly willing to allow me the boon, if you also are willing. I long with a home-sick heart to embrace you all, and am certain that I shall improve more rapidly after a few days of entire rest from brain work.

Hoping to see you soon, and tell you all that I would otherwise write,

I am,  
Ever your affectionate son,  
BIJAE BAHADUR

No. 10 —(From a student, who has recently entered College )  
 ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, CALCUTTA :  
*2nd August, 1892.*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I am happy to inform you that I passed the first quarterly examination with tolerable credit, and that Rev Mr Robson was kind enough to compliment me on my English style. My former schoolmate, Farukh Ahmad, has paid me much attention, and, as he moves in the best set in the college, I am in the hopes of establishing a pleasant and profitable acquaintance, without running into extravagance, or defeating the whole purpose of my collegiate career. I need hardly tell you, my dear brother, that College society is of a most mixed character, and it is not easy to ascertain at once whom it is advisable to know. At the same time, I trust to avoid the superciliousness which seems to be affected by many men down here, and to enjoy the many healthy recreations for which we have so many facilities without giving either you or myself any cause for regretting the day that first saw me a collegian.

Present my kindest love to my dear mother and sisters and assure them that even a college career does not prevent my feeling a strong yearning after home. But I shall look forward to seeing all of you at our ensuing *pūjah* holidays, when Santipur will be swarming with visitors.

The post office order you so kindly sent me arrived in due course.

I remain,  
 Your affectionate brother,  
 SATYA CHARAN GON

Direction on the envelope —

BABU SATYA SARAN GON,  
 PLEADER,  
*Santipur*

No 11 —(From a son to his father sending an intimation of the coming holidays )

SOMASTIPUR

5th March, 1895

MY DEAR FATHER,—Mr Sanyal has desired me to write and apprise you that we shall break up for our mid-summer holidays on the 17th Instant, on which day I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you.

I am happy to inform you that I have succeeded in gaining two prizes, one for writing, the other for history, while of the various other branches of learning I think I shall be able to render a satisfactory account

Mr Sanyal sends his remembrance, and says that he has great pleasure in confirming what I have stated respecting my progress

I remain, my dear father,  
Your dutiful and affectionate son,  
GANGADHAR CHAUBE

No 12 —(From a student to his brother introducing a story on the use of *Shall* and *Will* )

THE CITY COLLEGE, RANGOON

5th December, 1892.

MY DEAR CHARU,

Your affectionate note of 26th ultimo duly reached me I find you make great mistakes in the use of *shall* and *will* You need not be puzzled about the use, if you will remember that *shall* is used with the first person, and *will* with the second and third persons This is always correct, whenever the verb is intended to express merely future time and nothing more

*Shall*, however, is used for *will* in the second and third persons, when we desire to express not mere future time,

but some duty, order, or promise —as, “thou shalt not steal” (duty): “you shall be punished” (order); “you shall receive your prize to-morrow” (promise.)

*Will* is used for *shall* in the first person, when we wish to say that we intend or have a will to do something.—as, “I will finish this work.”

You would do well to remember the above rules lest you should also fall one day into a difficulty similar to that of a man, who had fallen down into a well. You wish to hear the story; do you not?

A man having accidentally fallen down into a well shouted out from the bottom as loudly as he could.—“I *will* be drowned, and nobody *shall* save me.” A person, who happened to be passing by and heard these words, believed that he had purposely jumped into the well for committing suicide. The incorrect use of *shall* and *will* might indeed lead him to this belief, *will* in the first person indicating the *intention* of the person to be drowned, and *shall* in the third person giving an *order* against being saved or rescued.

So the man was travelling on. But longer grew his shout in the meantime, and to make himself quite sure of what the man really meant, he went up to the brink of the well; and, looking down to the drowning man, he said.—“Friend, do you really wish to be drowned?” The man eagerly gasped out.—“Oh! bring a rope, and pull me out, before it is too late.”

As soon as the man was pulled out, he enquired of the other why he had asked such a strange question. “Because,” said he, “you used *shall* where you ought to have used *will*, and *will* where you ought to have used *shall*. You ought to have said, ‘I *shall* be drowned, and nobody *will* save me.’ If you had spoken thus, I should have understood you, and come at once to your rescue.”

I hope, my dear Chua, you will take a lesson from the man's story, and thoroughly master the use of *shall* and *will*

With my love to you,

I remain,

Your affectionate brother,  
UMESH CHANDRA NEOGI

No 13 —(Describing an incident )

SABZIMANDI, BARODA.  
12th September, 1890

MY DEAR FATHER,

In one of your recent letters you gave me permission to write on whatever subject I find interesting, rather than observe silence. Accordingly, an incident that took place at school this day and has touched me deeply, I shall make the theme of this letter.

Jashoda Prasad, a class-friend of mine, is a most refractory student. He was highly insolent to the headmaster this day, who, as a consequence, proceeded to inflict a kind of bastinado on the inner fleshy side of the boy's arm, which, during the operation, was twisted round with a peculiar skill to make the pain more acute. While the stripes were succeeding each other, and poor Jashoda was writhing under them, he cried out that the fault was not his, but he had been instigated by Akhoy to do so. "If Akhoy with you to throw yourself into a well, would you do so, rascal? Now bring Akhoy or any other person, who might be willing to take half your punishment." Such was the teacher's remonstrance. Shambhu Dayal, the youngest boy in the class, saw and felt for the misery of the offender. With tears in his eyes, and a voice trembling between fear and modesty, he approached the teacher, and asked him very humbly, if he would be pleased to tell him how many stripes he meant to inflict. "Why, Suiyah," replied the enraged headmaster,

"what is that to you?" "Because, if you please," said little Shambhu, holding out his arm, "I would take half"

There was a mixture of simplicity and magnanimity in this little trait, which, my dear father, was truly heroic. I need not say not only I, but the whole class, and even the angry headmaster, were affected to tears at the incident.

I am well and hope all of you also are the same.

With my love to you, dear mother, and all at home,

I remain,

Your affectionate son,

MURTAZA HUSAIN

No 14 —(From a son to his father on the latter's transfer to a distant country)

GORABAZAR, MADRAS

*14th May, 1893*

DEAR FATHER,

It was one of the first lessons you taught me, that gratitude is the noblest principle that can actuate the heart of man; but what must it be, when connected with the filial duty incumbent on a son to the most indulgent parent! I am left in a situation that may be felt but not described. That my dear and honoured parent should be so precipitately hurried away to a distant country fills me with reflections of all I owe to him, and sentiments of all I would do for him, if I could. My dear father, I wish I were older and in a situation to earn so as to obviate this necessity of your travel to a distant country at this time of your life, when it is meet that you should rest rather than work.

I am convinced that the friendly advice contained in your last letter is such that, if strictly followed, it must be attended with the most beneficial consequences to myself, my honour and happiness will equally depend on adhering to them, and I shall always consider it my second greatest duty to obey the precepts of my worthy father.

I have some thoughts, if agreeable to you, to join the law class. My inclinations run that way, but I submit it wholly to your approbation.

Let me beg to hear from you as often as possible, as it will be the greatest pleasure I can enjoy during such a separation.

I remain,  
My dearest father,  
Your affectionate son,  
BHOYRAV PRASAD

No 15—(From a repentant son to his father)

HAMIRPUR  
*3rd March, 1889.*

DEAR SIR,—I dare not call you father until you tell me that my deep and sincere repentance has removed the just anger that you expressed in our last interview. You told me then that I should live to see the sinful folly of my course, and deeply repent the sorrow I was causing both to yourself and my mother.

Oh, I have felt the bitter truth of your words in the inmost recesses of my heart and I can never again know peace until you assure me of your forgiveness for the pain that I have caused you. If I may come and throw myself at your feet send me one line by the bearer and I will hasten to you. If I have sinned too deeply for forgiveness I will leave Hamirpur at once, and you will be for ever relieved of my presence.

Trusting that the love you for so many years manifested for me will now plead in your heart for my forgiveness,

I am,  
Your erring but repentant son,  
SITAL PERSHAD

No 16.—(Returning thanks for a present )

STATION ROAD, MOTIHARI ;

17th November, 1889.

DEAR MOTHER,

I was no less delighted with your kind letter than with the present it accompanied. Knowing, as I do know, that your whole life is occupied in promoting my improvement and happiness, I can only feel that each fresh token of your affection lays an additional claim upon my gratitude.

I am at present working very hard, and hope to gain one step higher in the school at the end of the next half-yearly examination. My school-fellows are, generally speaking, very agreeable and well-disposed boys, and we are so well treated by our masters, that I feel almost as happy as if I were at home. Nevertheless, I often think of the coming Christmas vacation with not a little eagerness, and long to meet you and my dear father, brothers and sisters, and to enjoy the holidays in the way I have been always accustomed.

Your affectionate and grateful son,  
SAKALDIP SINGH.

No 17 —(From a son to his father announcing his safe arrival )

MAQBULGANJ, JHANSI :  
4th July, 1891

MY DEAR FATHER,

I have much pleasure in telling you that I reached here safe this morning. Kali Babu and his wife received me with their usual kindness, and have been doing everything in their power to make my exile agreeable. I will write more in my next. Accept, in the meantime, my duty and give my love to Bindu.

Your dutiful son,  
HARI CHARAN BANERJI.



No 18 —(To a cousin announcing the birth of a child)

HAJIPUR,

*15th May, 1895.*

MY DEAR COZ,—I write to say that mamma has got a new baby—a little boy—such a chubby-faced, blue-eyed little fellow. How I wish you could see him. I am quite fond of him already, and shall take great care of him.

Yours affectionately,

RAMESHWAR PRASAD

No 19 —(From a son to his father soliciting Pocket-money)

NAYABAZAR GWALIOR

*12th January, 1889*

MY DEAR FATHER,

I wrote to you some ten days ago, but having received no reply yet, I have become uneasy. Although I have been as good an economist as possible, yet I find the pocket-money you allow me is not sufficient to support my necessary expenses, although it was so, when I was at Madhubani. Gwalior is such a place, that unless one maintains something of character, one is sure to be treated with contempt, and pointed out as an object of ridicule. I assure you, dear father, that I abhor every sort of extravagance as much as you can desire and the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my interest, which, I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My private tutor will satisfy you that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I hope you will not be offended with me for writing again on this subject, as I always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour of my beloved parents.

I remain,

Your affectionate son,

BALAJI

No 20 —(Asking for a remittance)

LONDON MISSION SCHOOL, MAINPURI :  
*27th March, 1893*

MY DEAR FATHER,

I am glad to tell you that I have sufficiently regained my strength to attend to studies, you need not be in the least anxious for me.

I have endeavoured to be as good an economist as possible, but at present am obliged to purchase several books, I know of your tenderness and generosity, and doubt not of hearing from you soon

With my love to you,

I remain,  
My dear father,  
Your affectionate son,  
CHANDU LAL.

No 21 —(Asking for a sum of money)

KATRA ROAD, ALLAHABAD  
*31st July, 1891*

MY DEAR FATHER,

It is so seldom that I ask you to give me money beyond what you allow for pocket-expense, that I hope you will not take offence, if I beg you now to send me ten rupees. This sum I want for buying me a watch and chain. I find it very hard to regulate my studies, for I do not know what the time is, and not unfrequently I devote more time to one subject at the expense of others. Also in going to school, I find myself nearly half an hour too early or too late every day. If I had a watch, these things of course would not happen.

Hoping that you will not refuse me the money I ask for,

I remain, my dear father,  
Your affectionate son,  
RANG LAL

No 22 —(From a student to a rich relative asking for pecuniary assistance for the study of law )

GHAZIPUR

15th September, 1885

MY DEAR UNCLE,

I am in due receipt of your most kind and affectionate note of 10th inst. Yes, it is true that I have dallied long, and as you say, must now give up the "nomadic Bohemian life" I have been leading. To tell the truth, I was, for some time past fast getting into the pining distrustful snail of the misanthrope. I saw myself alone, unfit for the struggle of life, shinking at every rising cloud in the chance directed atmosphere of fortune, while, all defenceless, I looked about in vain for a cover. It never occurred to me, at least never with the force it deserved, that this world is a busy scene, and man a creature destined for progressive struggle. When all my school-fellows and youthful compeers are striking off with eager hope and earnest intent on some one or other of the many paths of busy life, I have been standing idle in the marketplace, or hunting fancy from whim to whim.

You see, my dear uncle, that to *know* one's errors were a probability of *mending* them. I stand therefore a fair chance. But the question naturally forces itself, *what am I to do?* Not having passed any university examinations, and possessing no qualifications for passing them, I find all the public offices mercilessly shut against me. There is, however, the Law Department, and under the present rules, I may be permitted to appear for the judge's court pleadership examination, if I can produce a certificate of having attended a law class recognised by the university for a period of two years.

But whence is to come the money for my education and maintenance, if I join a law class attached to some college? The Canning College tuition fee is but two rupees, and, in addition to it, if I but obtain an assistance of, say, six rupees

a month, the sum, considering that my brother is already a student of the institution and with him I shall stay at Lucknow, I shall find sufficient to meet all my wants

Eight rupees a month is, my dear uncle, something like a tax on your income at the rate of one rupee per cent per mensem. My father, greatly to my misfortune, is out of employ, but in his embarrassment, I have an equal right to apply to you for assistance. I never asked you for pecuniary help before, this, I shall remind you, is the first occasion. The High Court, I have learnt from a trustworthy source, in a year or two, contemplates changing the present law and ruling that none but university men are competent to appear for the pleadership examinations. If, therefore, I do not take my admission at once, shortly it will be too late

Under the circumstances, my dear uncle, I appeal to you. Let me have your candid advice whether you view my admission into the law class in the same favourable light that I do, and if so, might I request you to take charge of my education and maintenance at Lucknow by the payment of rupees eight a month?

The interest you take in me, as appears from your last friendly letter of advice, is, my dear uncle, my apology for making this request. An early answer will be esteemed a particular favour by

Your affectionate nephew,  
JAGDEVA PERSHAD GUROO

Direction on the envelope —

PANDIT RAM PERSHAD GUROO, RAE BAHADUR,  
SUBORDINATE JUDGE,  
Cawnpore

No 23 —(From a student to his brother expressing his hopes of joining the latter )

GHAZIPUR ;

2nd November, 1885

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I sent a letter in September last to our uncle at Cawnpur, promising, as he directed, to be a reformed man, and begging a pecuniary assistance of eight rupees a month to enable me to join the law class at the Canning College I got from him no written reply but when he came down to this place, a week ago, during the *Pujah* holidays, I received from him the generous promise that he would help me with the amount and that I might proceed to Lucknow in January next So my dear brother, I am coming One of my fondest hopes, that I shall be a lawyer thanks to our generous uncle, bids fair to be realised, and another hope, no less fond than this—that of constantly living with and under you, thanks to the same generous man, is about to be fulfilled

I remain,

Your affectionate brother,

JAGDEVA PERSHAD GUROO.

No 24 —(Reply to the above )

CANNING COLLEGE BOARDING HOUSE ,

15th November, 1885

MY DEAR JAGDEVA,

You must be no less a personage than the famous Alnaschar of the Arabian Nights You have been building strong castles, but lo, they melt into air The news of your coming here was indeed too pleasant to be true Day before yesterday, I had been to our uncle's at Cawnpore, and he gave a flat contradiction of what you wrote about his helping you with money He said you had misunderstood him, etc You will

perceive how great a nepotist our uncle dear is, but I hope you will no more talk of his nepotism.

I remain,  
Your affectionate brother,  
JADDU GUROO

No 25 —(From a son to his father begging him to  
intercede with his master)

FARUKHABAD .  
15th October, 1893.

MY DEAR FATHER,

With shame arising from a consciousness of guilt I have presumed to write to you at this time I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities of my conduct, which at last proceeded so far, as to induce me to exchange high words with my master, which has resulted in my rustication. It was the allurements of vicious company, that first made me forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty to a teacher, who treated me with great tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power, but know not of any other, than by acting diametrically opposite to my former conduct. Let me beg of you, my dear father, to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into the school, and my future conduct will be one of continued gratefulness.

I am,  
My dear father,  
Your affectionate, though undutiful son,  
HARIHAR LAL

No 26 —(From a son about to visit home)

CHHAPRA ;  
7th May, 1891.

MY DEAR FATHER,

As the summer vacation will commence on the 16th instant, I have much pleasure in the prospect of having six weeks to spend with you at home.

My studies this school year have progressed favourably, if at least I can take success as a variant of progress. After the annual examination was over, I was told that I had stood first among the candidates and had been granted a school scholarship, which, though small, is a useful addition to my funds.

The heat for the last few days has been simply stifling, and the sooner I leave this place for home the better.

Before I go, I shall have to pay off all my dues on account of board and lodging, and also to pay in advance my school fee for May and June. To meet these demands, all the money I have with me will be spent, so I request you to send my passage money.

With *Pranams* to you and mother dear, and love to brothers and sisters.

I remain,  
My dear father,  
Your affectionate son,  
SITA RAM CHATTERJI

No 27 — (To a brother announcing the death of mother)

KARA  
15th May, 1891

DEAR BROTHER,—I have sad news for you, call up all your courage to hear it. Our best beloved mother is gone to her rest. Last evening, about sunset, her gentle spirit departed. She suffered nothing, her passing away was like falling into a quiet slumber. You will, I know, feel the loss as deeply as I do, for she was inexpressively dear to us. But, my dear brother, it is proper that we should be resigned to the Divine Will. May God in His mercy and loving kindness grant strength to both of us to support the burden of this calamity!

Your affectionate brother,  
PREM SUKH.

No 28 —(To a father on the choice of a profession )

LUCKNOW .

*28th April, 1879.*

MY DEAR FATHER,

When I received your kind letter I thought of writing by return to say that nothing would please me more than to enter business, and have thus an opportunity of perhaps one day becoming one of your assistants. But, bearing in mind your injunction to think the subject well over for a month I could not reply at once without being guilty of something like disrespect

The month has now, however, expired, and I am at liberty to answer your letter, and to express my gratitude for the confidence you place in me in consulting my wishes and views as regards my career in life

Having thought carefully on all sides of the question to the best of my ability, I can come to no other conclusion than that I would like to qualify myself to be a merchant, and thus endeavour to follow in your footsteps I have made considerable progress in accounts as taught in the schools, and while reading geographical works I have paid particular attention to the description given of the commodities of the different countries with which Indian merchants have dealings

I hope I shall give satisfaction, whether I am placed in your own office or in that of one of your friends I am resolved to do all in my power to make myself useful wherever I may be, and with that view I shall employ a portion of my leisure in acquiring a knowledge of matters that are but little known to me at present

It pleases me very much to think that you have been desirous to see me follow the track, which you have so successfully pursued I know of no profession that I would embrace sooner than that of merchant especially as in this



calling I may count upon receiving your advice and assistance, whenever I may require them

I remain,  
My dear father,  
Ever your affectionate son,  
DHURANDAR PERSHAD,

No 29 —(From a son to his father reporting his progress in study)

MUSSOORIE  
17th February, 1895

MY DEAR FATHER,—I see you cannot dispense with my weel ly letter , and I mst not be disobedient I know your request is all for my own good But I wish, indeed, I could write better, for my letters are not worth reading

I believe I shall get on better with my lessons this term, as Mr Gordon has placed me in a higher class I am now in the junior division of the Entrance class I have to work harder, and I shall do my best to get on

I think Mr Gordon intends to give us some instruction in letter-writing, as he has been doing to the seniors I shall then, I think, make rapid progress in the art to which you so strongly urge me to attend I have made up my mind to write to you every Wednesday, but I hope that you will kindly excuse all the imperfections of my composition

I remain, my dear father,  
Your affectionate son,  
JWALA DUTT JOSHI

No 30 —(To a father making excuses for his conduct)

BARKILLY,  
17th September, 1892

MY DEAR FATHER,—I am ver y sorry to have displeased you, and promise not to give you any occasion for displeasure

again. It is not always that one can put up with harsh treatment, however well disposed he may be. One of our teachers is unnecessarily unkind. He treats us as if we belonged to another sphere of life. If we go up to him with our difficulties, he laughs at us and calls us names. The last time I had an occasion to go to him he treated me so badly that I could not help observing I was not going to tolerate it any longer. The teacher at once left the class and reported my conduct to the headmaster, who, I am sorry to say, was a little hasty and represented the matter to you without receiving any explanation from me. I have now explained to him how it all happened. He told me that there could be no excuse for a boy being rude to a teacher. It often happened that a teacher was wrong and unjust, but it was necessary for the sake of discipline, if for no other reason, to censure the boy. I can see that the headmaster is right, and I am very sorry for what I did. I am trying to make amends for my conduct, and shall have no peace of mind if I hear you are still angry.

Your dutiful son,  
KAILASH NARAYAN

No 31.—(Giving an account of illness)

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, AGRA.  
*19th April, 1894*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

You would have had no reason to complain of my long silence, had I preferred my self-justification to your ease. I wrote you a letter, which now lies in my drawer, but in such a weak state of body, and in so desponding and comfortless a tone of mind, that I knew it would give you pain, and therefore I chose not to send it. I have indeed been ill, but, thanks to God, I am recovered. My nerves were shattered by over-application, and the absence of all that could amuse, and also the presence of many things, which

weighed heavily upon my spirits When I found myself too ill to read, and too desponding to endure my own reflections, I discovered that it was really a miserable thing to be destitute of a soothing and supporting hand when nature most needed it I wandered up and down from one man's room to another, and from one college to another, imploring society, a little conversation, and a little relief of the burden which pressed upon my spirits, and I am sorry to say, that those who, when I was cheerful and lively, sought my society with avidity, now, when I actually needed conversation, were too busy to grant it Our college examination was then approaching, and this was an additional grief I went to our principal, with tears in my eyes, and told him I must absent myself from the examination, a step which would have precluded me from a station among the scholarship-holders until the second year He earnestly counselled me to run the risk Our surgeon gave me strong stimulants and supporting medicines during the examination week, and somehow I appeared in the examination The result has not been yet out, but I have strong hopes of success

I have only one thing more to tell you about my illness I have found in a young man, with whom I had a little acquaintance, that kind care and attention which I looked for in vain from those who professed themselves my nearest friends At a time, when Jagadindra Tewari could not find leisure to devote a single evening to his sick friend, even when he earnestly implored it, Krishna Gopal constantly, and even against my wishes, devoted every evening to the relieving of my melancholy, and the enlivening of my solitary hours With the most constant and affectionate assiduity, he gave me my medicines, administered consolation to my spirits, and even put me to bed

I think I have now nearly tired you Pray write to me soon, and believe me,

Your very affectionate brother,  
BASANT PERSHAD

No 32 —(Announcing a visit )

ALIGARH .

*12th February, 1893.*

MY DEAR COUSIN,

In consequence of an alteration in my plans, I shall have the pleasure of seeing you at the latter end of the week, and I wish you so to inform my aunt. The reason of this change is this : I have over-exerted myself, and I find it absolutely necessary to take some relaxation and to give up study entirely for a short time, in order that I may go on better hereafter.

This has been occasioned by our college lectures, which I attended too late, on account of my being occupied in preparing for the Bible scholarship examination. I was obliged to lag so hard for the college lectures, as the time drew on, that I could take no exercise. Thus I soon knocked myself up, and I now labour under a great general relaxation and much nervous weakness.

Change of air and place will speedily remove these symptoms, and I shall certainly give up the Departmental examination, rather than injure my health.

Do not mention these things in your letter to mother, as she will make it a cause of unnecessary uneasiness.

I remain,

Yours affectionately,

PARESH CHANDRA GUPTA.

No. 33 —(On the same subject )

ALIGARH .

*17th February, 1893*

DEAR COUSIN,

I was sorry to receive your letter desiring me to defer my journey, and I am sorry to be forced to tell you the reason of my coming to you sooner than you wish me. I have had an attack of my old nervous complaint, and my spirits have been so wretchedly shattered, that the surgeon says

I shall never be well till I have removed somewhere, where I can have society and amusement. It is a very distressing thing to be ill in college, where you have no attendance, and very little society. Mr. Gargari, our Professor, who takes a lively interest in his students, told me this morning that I must go to my friends directly, and relieve myself with complete relaxation from study. Under these circumstances, the object of my journey to Etawah will be answered by the mere residence in my aunt's family, and by cessation from reading. While I am here, I am wretched, I cannot read, the slightest application makes me faint, I have very little society, and that is quite a force upon my friends. I am determined, therefore, to leave this place on Saturday morning, and you may rest satisfied that the purpose of my journey will be fully accomplished by the prattle of my aunt's little ones, and her care. I am not an invalid, since I have no sickness or ailment, but I am weak and low-spirited, and unable to read. The last is the greatest calamity I can experience of a wordly nature.

I remain,

Affectionately yours,

PORESH CHANDRA GUPTA

No 34—(To an uncle offering thanks for a present)

COLONELGANJ

14th November, 1896

MY DEAR UNCLE,—I thank you very much for the fine big rocking horse you have been so kind as to send me. I shall now be able to have some delightful long rides. For your own sake as well as that of the noble horse, you may be sure I shall treat him with great care and tenderness.

Your loving and obliged nephew,

RAMANAND

No 35—(To a brother announcing the death of a sister )

NAINI

*13th September, 1891.*

DEAR LALTA,—You may imagine with what anguish I sit down to tell you that our sweet little sister died this morning about five o'clock. She was seized in the evening with a sort of convulsion and fainting fits, and expired at the time I have mentioned.

The suddenness of the calamity and the affliction with which our mother doted on the poor little child have cost her dearly. She is distracted with a thousand agonising recollections.

I have undertaken the painful duty of making this sad announcement to you only to persuade you to come here for 6 or 7 days. If you can manage to come down for a week or so, your presence and mine may tend to compose our mother a great deal. If it be possible for you to do so, pray start as soon as you get this. Hoping to see you here by the evening mail,

I remain, affectionately yours,

BODHI MAL.

No 36—(To a mother giving an account of health and studies )

ETAWAH :

*22nd February, 1893.*

MY DEAR MOTHER,

You no doubt have been surprised at not having heard from me for so long a time, and you will be no less so to find that I am writing this at my aunt's in Etawah. I had been so much taken up with the Bible scholarship examination of late, that I could not find time to write even to you, and I am now come to this place in order

to give myself every relaxation and amusement I can, for I had read so much at the college, that my health was rather affected, and I was advised to give myself the respite of a week or a fortnight, in order to recover strength. I arrived here on Saturday night, and should have written yesterday, in order to remove any uneasiness you might feel on my account, but there was no post on Sunday after 8 in the morning.

I have now to communicate some agreeable intelligence to you. On Friday last, our English Professor, who is very kind to me, sent for me, and told me he was sorry to hear I had been ill, he understood I was low-spirited, and wished to know whether I frightened myself about college expenses. I told him frankly that they did contribute a little to harass me. His answer was to this purpose —“ My dear boy, I beg you will not trouble yourself on this subject, I will take care your expenses are not very burdensome — Leave that to me ” He advised me to go to my friends, and, amuse myself with a total cessation from reading. He desired me to be under no apprehensions, he shook hands with me very affectionately, and wished me a speedy recovery. These attentions from a man like our Professor are very marked, and he is well known for doing more than he says. I need not tell you whether I am progressing in my studies. The treatment our Professor has accorded me is a sufficient guarantee of my advancement. I am sure, after these assurances from so respectable a man, I have nothing to fear, and I hope you will never repine on my account again, according to every appearance, my lot in life is certain.

Your affectionate and dutiful son,  
PORESH

No 37 —(Re-assuring a mother )

SRRAMPORE, 17th October, 1893

DEAREST MOTHER,

I am quite unhappy to see you so anxious on my account, and also that you should think me neglectful of

you Believe me, my dear mother, my thoughts are often with you Never do I lay myself on my bed until you have all passed before me in my prayers, and one of my first earthly wishes is to make you comfortable, and provide that rest and quiet for your mind which you so much need, and never fear but I shall have it in my power sometimes or other My prospects wear a flattering appearance, and on all accounts, you have much reason to indulge in happier dreams My health is considerably better Only do you take as much care of yours as I do of mine, and all will be well I exhort and entreat and beseech you that, as you love me and all your children, you will take your bitters without ceasing As you wish me to pay regard to your exhortation, pray attend to this

Your affectionate son,  
JAGAT DURLABH

No 38 —(From a student who has recently joined school  
to his mother )

ALIGARH

' 29th September 1894

MY DEAREST MAMMA,—Although I was almost heart-broken at parting from you for the first time in my life, I felt that you would never have let me quit home but for my own good, and I hope I am not ungrateful enough to prefer mere selfish gratification to future welfare

I find school much less disagreeable than I expected. There are, of course, many variations of disposition—for a school is like a little world—but, for the most part, the boys make themselves very pleasant to me Mr Chakravarti is kindness itself, and sets an example of mutual good-will to all of us

My studies are, I think, progressing satisfactorily, although I am, of course, in the background as yet, especially in my mathematics



How I long to kiss and embrace you again ! God bless you, dear mamma, and believe me,

Your ever affectionate son,  
NUR MUHAMMAD

No 39 —(Advising the despatch of spectacles )

CALCUTTA

*21st June, 1890.*

MY DEAR MOTHER,

I have much pleasure in sending per to-day's parcel post a pair of spectacles for dear father They are, I hope, such as will enable him to read with ease, although they are not set in silver You may think I am not privileged to make presents, since they, in the end, will come out of your pocket, but I am not in want of cash at present, and have reason to believe, from my own calculations I shall not have occasion to call upon you for what I know you can so ill spare

Yesterday I was examined in Persian, and so well was I prepared that almost without studying over the subject, I have given satisfaction

I am happy to tell you that I am much better in health than before

With love to you all,  
I remain,  
Your affectionate son,  
ALTAF HUSAIN

No 40 —(From a son to his father acknowledging a present )

BOARDING HOUSE, BARABANKI DISTRICT SCHOOL,

*9th September, 1894*

MY DEAR FATHER,—How kind of you to think of me immediately after your return from Calcutta The books you sent are so very beautiful, that I should have been afraid of

exciting the envy of my school-fellows had it not been for the liberal supply of Bengali sweetmeats, by which they were accompanied.

I assure you, I spare no trouble to win the good opinion of my teachers, and, if I may judge from their kindness towards me, I am not altogether unsuccessful.

I am enjoying excellent health and spirits, but I hope, now you are in Lucknow, you will sometimes come down and see your son; for, believe me, nothing but an occasional thought of poor, lonely papa, ever intrudes upon my cheerfulness. Our English teacher has frequently expressed a wish to see you, so that I shall look forward with anxiety for that happy occasion.

Again thanking you for your thoughtful and liberal kindness,

Believe me to remain,

My dear father,

Your ever affectionate and grateful son,

RAM DAYAL

No 41 — (Giving an account of ill-health)

3, HARRISON ROAD, CALCUTTA :

*5th December, 1893*

MY DEAR MOTHER,

Do not think I am reading hard; I believe it is all over with that. I had a recurrence of my old complaint, the palpitatio of heart, within this last four or five days, which has half unnerved me for everything. The state of my health is really miserable; I am well and lively in the morning, and overwhelmed with nervous horrors in the evening. I do not know how to proceed with regard to my studies, a very slight overstretch of the mind in the day-time occasions not only a sleepless night, but a night of gloom and horror. The systole and diastole of my heart

seem to be playing at ball—the stake, being my life. I can only say the game is not yet decided. I hope as the summer comes, my spirits, which have been with the swallows a winter's journey, will come with it. When my spirits are restored, my health will be restored. Pray, my dear mother, that I may have serenity and peace of mind, for, when I get these, all will be well.

Your miserable son,  
BHAGABATI PRASAD

No 42 —(From a son to his father giving an account of his school life)

SHELLFORD,  
*22nd February, 1813*

MY DEAR PAPA,

As this is a whole holiday, I cannot find a better time for answering your letter. With respect to my health, I am very well, and tolerably cheerful, as Blundell, the best and most clever of all the scholars, is very kind, and talks to me, and takes my part. He is quite a friend of Mr Prestons. The other boys, especially Lyon, a Scotch boy, and Wilberforce, are very good-natured, and we might have gone on very well, had not one, a Bristol fellow, come here. He is unanimously allowed to be a queer fellow, and is generally characterised as a foolish boy, and by most of us an ill-natured one. In my learning I do Xenophon every day, and twice a week the *Odyssey*, in which I am classed with Wilberforce, whom all the boys allow to be very clever, very droll, and very impudent. We do Latin verses twice a week, and I have not yet been laughed at, as Wilberforce is the only one who hears them, being in my class. We are exercised also once a week in English composition, and once in Latin composition, and letters of persons renowned in history to each other. We get by heart Greek grammar or Virgil every evening. As for sermon-writing, I have

hitherto got off with credit, and I hope I shall keep up my reputation. We had had the first meeting of our debating society the other day, when a vote of censure was moved for upon Wilberforce, but he getting up said, 'Mr. President, I beg to second the motion' By this means he escaped. The kindness which Mr Preston shows me is very great. He always assists me in what I cannot do, and takes me to walk out with him every now and then. My room is a delightful snug little chamber, which nobody can enter, as there is a trick about opening the door. I sit like a king, with my writing-desk before me, for (would you believe it?) there is a writing-desk in my chest of drawers; my books are on one side, and my box of papers on the other, with my arm-chair and my candle, for every boy has a candle-tick, snuffers, and extinguisher of his own. Being pressed for room, I will conclude what I have to say to-morrow and ever remain,

Your affectionate son,

THOMAS B. MACAULAY.

No 43 —(On the choice of books)

ALIGARH.

12th January, 1894.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

You wish me to name you a number of books, the study of which may create in you a relish for study. A relish for reading is a sweet source of amusement and will prove a salutary relaxation to you throughout life; but let it not be more than a *relish*, if you value your own peace. I think that you ought to strengthen first your mind a little, and for this purpose I would advise you to go through Euclid with sedulous and serious attention. You are, I am afraid, too desultory a reader, and regard *amusement* too much. If you wish your reading in good earnest to *amuse* you when you are old, as well as now in your youth,

you will take care to form a taste for substantial and sound authors, and will not be the less eager to study a work because it requires some labour to understand it

After you have read Euclid, you should 'amuse' yourself with Lock's Sublime Speculations and Butler's Analogy, which latter is without exception the most unanswerable demonstration of the folly of infidelity that the world ever saw.

Books like these will give you more strength of mind and consistent firmness than either you or I now possess, while, on the other hand, the effeminate *Panada* of Magazines, Tales, and the tribe of penny-catching pamphlets of which desultory readers are so fond, only tend to enervate the mind, and incapacitate it for every species of manly exertion

I will write to you more on this subject, when you acknowledge receipt of this letter

I remain,  
Your affectionate friend and brother,  
MADHO RAM

No 44 —(Sending an intimation of partial recovery )

BENARES

17th March, 1892.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

I can scarcely write more to you now, than just to calm your uneasiness on my account I am perfectly well again, and have experienced no recurrence of the fit; my spirits too are better, and I read very moderately I hope that God will be pleased to spare his rebellious child. This stroke has brought me nearer to Him. Whom indeed have I for my comforter but Him? Pray to the heavenly father for—

Your affectionate son,  
PANNA LAL

CHAPTER VI.

LETTERS FROM STUDENTS TO HEADS OF  
SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, ETC.

No 1 —(From a student to the Headmaster of a school applying for admission)

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
CHURCH MISSION SCHOOL,  
*Jaunpur.*

SIR,

I have lately come to this place from Azamgarh, and respectfully request that you will admit me from the commencement of the next month into the fourth class of your school

I beg to forward herewith a copy of my Scholar's register from which you will find that I was in the fourth class, when I left my last school, and that I have duly paid all the tuition fees and other dues of the school.

WELLENDGANJ, JAUNPUR .

} Yours obediently,

25th February, 1891.

} RAM JASAN MISSER.

Direction on the envelope :—

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
CHURCH MISSION SCHOOL,  
*Jaunpur*

No. 2.—(From a student to the Principal of a College applying for admission)

To

THE PRINCIPAL,  
CANNING COLLEGE,  
*Lucknow.*

SIR,

I have the honor to request that you will admit me to the First Year Class from the commencement of the next session.

I passed the late Entrance Examination from the Zila School, Hardoi, as my scholar's register shows, and have paid all the tuition fees due up to date

I am, Sir,

KHYALIGANJ, LUCKNOW ,        }        Your obedient servant,  
The 2nd July, 1891                BATUK DAYAL

(Direction on the envelope as above)

No 3 —(From a student applying for leave of absence on account of marriage )

To

THE PRINCIPAL,  
Lashkar College,  
Lashkar

SIR,

My youngest brother is to be married next week, and as my father is an old, helpless man, and I am the only person, who can make the necessary arrangements, I beg to be allowed leave of absence for a fortnight

Yours obediently,  
PRABHU RAM,

4th April, 1894

2nd Year Class

(Direction on the envelope as above)

No 4 —(Application for leave of absence on account of sickness )

SIR,

I am suffering from a severe attack of fever which renders me quite unable to attend school I beg, therefore, that you will kindly grant me leave of absence for a week

Yours obediently,  
HEMANTA KUMAR MAZUMDAR,

1st May, 1892.

2nd Class

No 5 —(For leave of absence on account of sickness )  
To

J W BROWN, Esq, M A ,  
HEADMASTER,  
Govt High School,  
*Bangalore*

SIR,—I am sorry to inform you that in consequence of an attack of fever I am unable to leave my room, and must therefore beg leave of absence from school for 4 or 5 days I remember to-day is the day fixed by you for the commencement of our test examination, but I cannot help absenting myself from it I will procure and forward a medical certificate as soon as I am well enough to do so

I remain,

SIR,

Yours obediently,

CHINTAMANI SRINIVAS.

BANGALORE 11th April, 1893

Direction on the envelope :—

To

J W BROWN, Esq, M. A ,  
HEADMASTER,  
Govt High School,  
*Bangalore*

No 6 —(Applying for leave of absence )

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
DISTRICT SCHOOL,  
*Bareilly.*

SIR,

I respectfully request the favour of your granting me leave of absence for a week, that I may go home to visit a member of my family, who is seriously ill

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

HARBILAS SAHAE,  
ENTRANCE CLASS.

17th September, 1895



No 7 —(For leave of absence on account of illness )

27, AMHERST STREET, CALCUTTA ;

27th May, 1891

To

THE HEAD MASTER,

RIPON COLLEGE,

*Calcutta.*

SIR,—As I have got a chest disease, and our family Doctor has recommended complete relaxation from study, I request that you will kindly grant me leave of absence for a month. The Medical Certificate is herein enclosed.

There are, I know, only two months now remaining for our annual examination, and if the Doctor had not considered an absolute relaxation necessary, I should not have ventured to apply for leave, but I trust that taking into consideration the reason that has compelled me to apply, you will not refuse my request.

I remain,

SIR,

Yours obediently,

GOKUL PRASAD MITTER,

*3rd Class*

(Direction on the envelope as above)

No. 8 —(Applying for leave of absence)

To

THE HEAD MASTER,

RIFAH-I-AM SCHOOL,

*Agra*

SIR,

I just receive a telegram from Muttra intimating that my mother is dangerously ill. I request the favour of your granting me leave of absence for a week that I may go and see her.

Your obedient pupil,  
DULI CHAND.

13th April, 1897

No 9.—(From a student to the Headmaster of a school applying for the removal of his name )

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
MUKERJI'S SEMINARY,  
*Muzaffarpur*

SIR,

A change in the appointment of my father compels him to leave this place with family, and as there is a good Anglo-Vernacular High School in the station to which he has been transferred, he has desired me to apply to you for the removal of my name from your registers and the grant of a Transfer Certificate.

I remain,

SIR,

MUZAFFARPUR .

21st September, 1890. }

Yours obediently,  
BINDA PERSHAD, ,  
*1st Class.*

(Direction on the envelope as above.)

No. 10 —(Applying for an extension of leave.)  
To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
DURBAR HIGH SCHOOL,  
*Rewah.*

SIR,

As I am still confined to bed and am too weak to attend to any work, I solicit the favour of your granting me an extension of leave for a fortnight.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,  
BRINDABAN DUBEY.

*16th August, 1885.*

No 11 —(Applying for admission as a free student )

RAM BAGH, BENARES

2nd July, 1891

To

THE PRINCIPAL,

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,

*Benares*

SIR,

I beg to state that I passed the last Entrance Examination from the B P School, and have a great mind to prosecute my studies further, but for want of support find it hard to do so. I was a free student in the above school, as will appear from my Transfer Certificate. The accompanying note from Pandit Suraj Mal, Rais and Honorary Magistrate, will show that he is willing to grant me a scholarship of five rupees a month, if I may be taken as a free student in your college. I respectfully request you will grant me this favour. I need not say you will find me punctual in attendance, and attentive to my studies.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

MAKKHAN LAL

(Direction on the envelope as above)

No 12 —(Applying for admission as a free student )

13, KRISHNA ROAD, KARACHI.

3rd January, 1894

To

THE HEAD MASTER,

KARACHI HIGH SCHOOL

SIR,

I respectfully request you to do me the favour of admitting me as a free student in the third class. I belonged to the Govt. High School, but as, through the recent death of

my brother, I am thrown entirely upon my own resources, and cannot pay the tuition fee, my name has been removed from it. I appeared for the last Middle Examination and was plucked in mathematics only. I have this year made a considerable progress in this subject, and, as you will find on examination, have a reasonable chance of success.

I need not add that I will do my best to prove worthy of the favour I ask for.

I am, Sir,  
Yours obediently,  
GATTU MAL

No 13 —(Soliciting leave of absence)

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
HITKARINI SABHA SCHOOL,  
*Jubbulpur*

SIR,

I have been suffering from a severe attack of Neuralgia, and the Doctor has asked me to abstain from all mental exertion. May I ask you to be good enough to grant me leave of absence for 2 weeks? If I feel a little better before this period, I will not fail to attend school.

I remain, Sir  
Yours respectfully,  
JAI CHAND,  
4TH CLASS

19th July, 1897

No 14 —(Applying for remission of tuition fee and grant of a scholarship)

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT,  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE,  
*Madras*

DEAR SIR,

I have been reading in this institution for upwards of four years, and I think have always given you satisfaction

by regular payment of all dues, attention to studies, and a good moral conduct

The sudden and unexpected death of my father now compels me to apply for a favour, which, kind as you are, I know you will not refuse. I have been left entirely helpless, and find it impossible to continue my studies, unless you may be pleased to exempt me from payment of tuition fee and to grant a monthly scholarship sufficient for my maintenance.

I know how willing you always are to help deserving students and also that you have sufficient funds at your disposal to enable you to do so, it is this which leads me to make what might otherwise appear an unreasonable request.

Apologising for the favour asked for,

I remain,  
DEAR SIR,  
Yours obediently,  
WILLIAM THOMAS,  
2ND YEAR CLASS.

*1st February, 1893*

No 15 —(Applying for leave of absence)  
To THE HEAD MASTER,  
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE,  
*Ajmere.*

SIR,—I request the favour of your granting me leave the remaining hours of the school, as I feel extremely unwell and am quite unable to go on with my work.

Yours respectfully,  
*10th November, 1896.* SITA RAM BHARGAVA.

No 16 —(Applying for remission of tuition fee)  
To  
BABU KRISHNA BEHARI SEN, M A,  
RECTOR, ALBERT COLLEGE,  
*Calcutta*

SIR,  
ac  
to A reduction in the establishment of Messrs Newman and Co has left my father out of employ, and I find it my painful

duty to request that so long as my father does not secure an appointment elsewhere, you will be so good as to exempt me from paying the monthly tuition fee. If you refuse to show me this favour, I am afraid I shall have to suspend school attendance for some months.

I remain, Sir,  
Your obedient pupil,  
ABDUL QADIR,

12th August, 1893.

1ST YEAR CLASS.

No 17.—(Soliciting leave of absence)

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
ARYAN INSTITUTE,  
*Almora*

SIR,

I respectfully beg to state that private affairs of a very urgent nature require my presence at home. May I request the favour of your excusing my non-attendance to-day?

I remain, Sir,  
Yours respectfully,  
SARADA PRASAD.

9th August, 1897.

No 18 —(In answer to an advertisement)  
3, BENI PRASAD'S LANE, DACCA.  
17th July, 1892.

To

THE SECRETARY,  
JUBILEE HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
*Dacca*

SIR

Allow me to address you on the subject of your advertisement for a number of students, who have passed the Minor Examination in the first grade and are willing to join your School.

I passed the Minor Examination in the first grade in 1890, and have been reading in the fourth class of the Church Mission Middle School. I am willing to be transferred to the Jubilee School on the terms mentioned in the advertisement.

Babu Hem Chandia Mallik, B. L., Pleader, Local Bar, has consented to reply to any enquiries that may be made to him regarding my character.

DACCA  
3rd July, 1891

I am, Sir,  
Yours obediently,  
HIRA LAL CHAKRAVARTI

No 19 —(From a student now at college to his former schoolmaster)

BENARES COLLEGE,  
16th September, 1896

DEAR SIR,—I sincerely hope this brief epistle from an old pupil will not be thought impertinent. I write this to offer my heartfelt thanks for the words of counsel that I received from you when at school and that now prove of immense service to me. Your example as well as your conversation exercise sufficient influence over my conduct here to enable me to withstand some of the temptations of the place and to think of duties higher than those which merely result from ambition or self-satisfaction. I am happy in enjoying the society of young men, who have greater belief in conscience than in mere talent, and I trust that I am living as you would wish me, and have taught me, to live.

My studies are progressing most satisfactorily, if at least I can take my success in the last quarterly examination as a warrant of merit. The Principal of our college has paid me much kind attention and my tutor spares no pains, so that I have altogether much to be thankful for.

I look forward with delight to the time when we shall again meet. Meanwhile, believe that no success can ever efface the remembrance of the kind friend and preceptor to whom I owe all. With sincerest wishes for your health, happiness, and long continuance in your exemplary career of usefulness,

Believe me, Dear Sir,  
Your ever affectionate and obedient pupil,  
MURLI MANOHAR

No 20 —(Explaining the cause of non-attendance )

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
DISTRICT SCHOOL,  
*Delhi*

DEAR SIR,

I am sorry to say that my father is too ill to allow of my leaving him. I am therefore compelled to be absent from school to-day. But I send my exercise book with Ramadhin Panday, and hope to be able to come to-morrow.

Your obedient pupil,  
MUHAMMAD NAZIR

No 21 —(Offering an apology )

NAYAGAON, LUCKNOW  
*17th February, 1893*

To

THE PRINCIPAL,  
CANNING COLLEGE,  
*Lucknow*

SIR,

With reference to your notification rusticating me from the Law Class, unless I at once apologise to you, I hereby beg to offer an unqualified apology for my conduct.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,  
Your obedient servant,  
SHYAM BEHARI LAL



No 22 —(From a student for the removal of his name )  
To

BABU JAGAT SAHAE, B A ,  
HEADMASTER, KAYESTHA PATHSHALA.

SIR,

I have been a pupil in the Pathshala under you for the last six years, and appeared the last year for the English Middle Examination, which I passed successfully being placed in the Second Division I regret to say that a week ago, my uncle, who was the supporter of our family, died, and I am unable to continue at school any longer, for I must now try to obtain some appointment, by which I may earn my own living May I ask you to kindly grant me a certificate to help me in getting some work ?

I remain,

SIR,

Yours obediently,  
GANESHI LAL,  
*2nd Class*

*17th September, 1890*

(Direction as above )

No 23 —(From a student for a letter of recommendation )  
To

THE HEADMASTER,  
CITY SCHOOL,  
*Patna.*

DEAR SIR,

I find it very hard to continue at school because of the expense, which I have got no body to pay me My brother, who maintained me so long, has desired me to at once discontinue my studies, for he has applied for pension and must curtail all expenditure I hear, however, from a friend that Babu Sideshwar Mukerji, Head Accountant, Opium Factory, requires 5 extra clerks for May and June, the very months,

for which the school will remain closed. The salary is Rupees 20 per mensem, and forty rupees, together with such help as my brother may grant, I shall find sufficient to maintain me at school during the few months now remaining for the Entrance Examination. I believe you are personally acquainted with Sideshwar Babu, and take the liberty of asking you to kindly grant me a letter to that gentleman, which, I am sure, would have more weight with him than a formal certificate. The kind interest you have always taken in me is my apology for this liberty.

I remain,

DEAR SIR,

Yours respectfully,

MUHAMMAD YUSUF,

*The 25th April, 1893.*

*Entrance Class.*

No. 24.—(From an ex-student for a letter of recommendation )

KASIMBAZAR, MURSHIDABAD :

*10th August, 1890.*

To

THE PRINCIPAL,

BEHRAMPORE COLLEGE.

DEAR SIR,

A post of head clerk has fallen vacant in the office of Private Secretary to the Maharani Sarnomoyi, and the appointment is in the gift of Babu Boikuntha Nath Barat, who is the Dewan. I wish to offer myself as a candidate, and I respectfully request you to kindly give me a letter to that gentleman, who, I understand, is a particular friend of yours.

When circumstances forced me last year to leave the 3rd Year Class, you were pleased to grant me a certificate respecting my qualifications and character. Strong as the certificate is, I think that a letter from you written to Boikuntha

Babu would be of greater consequence in inviting his favourable consideration to my case, and so I take the liberty to make this request.

Yours respectfully,  
HARIPADA MAZUMDAR.

No 25 —(From a student applying for a testimonial )

To

THE HEAD MASTER,  
ARYAN SCHOOL  
*Almora*

SIR,

In reply to an advertisement for a private tutor I mentioned that I was a student of the first class of this institution, and that I passed the English Middle Examination of 1888 I have been required by the father of the boy for whom the private tutor is wanted to produce from you a testimonial regarding my qualifications and character I respectfully beg you will grant it

Yours obediently,  
PREM SUKH,

*The 15th July, 1890*

*Entrance Class*

No 26 —(From a student requesting the Principal to forward his petition with remarks of his own )

To

F W TOMORY, Esq, M A ,  
PRINCIPAL, HUME'S COLLEGE

SIR,

I read in the "Statesman " of to-day's issue that a private tutor is required by Lala Hari Mohan Kapur for his son, a lad of 11 years The tutor is required to attend every morning for three hours, and the salary he is to obtain is 75 rupees a month The great interest you always take in me, and, indeed, in all your pupils, encourages me to request

that you will forward the accompanying petition I have addressed to the above gentleman with such remarks of your own regarding my merits, as you may, in this case, consider necessary. Lila Hari Mohan wants a B. A. having some experience as a tutor. I beg to say, (as I have already mentioned in the petition) that I have had a certain amount of experience in private teaching having coached a son of Babu Rameshwar Chandra Mishra for the Matriculation Examination, which he passed this year successfully.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient pupil,

SRIPATI HAZRA,

5th September, 1892.

5th Year Class

No 27 —(Address to a Professor going home on leave of absence)

REV AND DEAR SIR,

We, the students of the Lucknow Christian College, are now assembled here to say our farewell to you on the occasion of your departure from our midst. We take this opportunity of expressing our deep gratitude towards you for the constant self-denial you have shown for our improvement, and our hearty appreciation of your paternal care over us. You have not only been a parent and teacher to us, but have also shown yourself a real friend of our native land. It is now with painful feelings that we come to bid you farewell; yet our sorrow is somewhat alleviated when we consider that you now go away, only to return, as we trust, with refreshed energy and vigorous health to resume your efforts for the progress of education in India. It is not for us to put in words the great obligation under which you have laid this land, nor is it necessary, for your labours have already left indestructible monuments behind them. We now earnestly request you to accept this small token of our great love and respect for you, and we bid you farewell, with our hearty

wishes for a safe and prosperous voyage home, a bright and happy stay in your own country, and a cheerful return to our midst.

We remain,  
Rev and Dear Sir,  
Yours most affectionately,

*The students of the*  
*17th July, 1893*      *Lucknow Christian College*

No 28 —(A farewell address)

To

BABU RAMANANANDA CHATERJI, M A

SIR,—It is with a feeling of deep sorrow that we beg to approach you on this occasion

When it was rumoured a short time ago, that you were about to leave us soon, we were in hopes that the intelligence would prove to be untrue. Now we find, however, that it was but too true, and we have come here to bid you farewell.

We would fain retain you still in our midst, but since you go to a sphere of action perhaps more congenial, we mingle our congratulations with our regrets, and wish you God-speed.

When far away, we shall ever cherish in our hearts, the examples you leave behind, of an exemplary character, and of an ideal professor, who was never but on the most friendly terms with his students.

We pray to Him on high to shower down upon you His choicest blessings.

We remain,  
SIR,

CITY COLLEGE  
*15th September, 1895*

} Your most obedient pupils,  
*The Students of the Fourth-year*  
*Class*

No. 29 —(An address of welcome)

THE MOST HONBLE

GEORGE FREDERICK SAMUEL, MARQUIS OF RIPON,  
K G, P C, G M S I, G M I E.,  
*Viceroy and Governor-General of India.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the students of the Presidency College, Madras, beg to present this humble address of welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Ripon. The three and forty years which have gone by since this Institution was established under the title of the High School, have witnessed the steady growth of popular enlightenment and education of self-reliance and loyalty to Government. The proficient and graduates of this College have, by their ability and attainments, and by their high sense of duty, distinguished themselves not only in the service of the British Government but also in the service of Native States. The College, under the management of its able and worthy Principal and Professors, maintains the prestige of the past, and sees before it the dawning of a still brighter future. Thus, we believe, is the first time that a Viceroy has visited our College and the occasion of a Viceregal visit must, in any case, be a happy one, but the fact that that Viceroy is one who has endeared himself to the people of India, renders the occasion peculiarly joyful to us. We feel profoundly grateful to Your Excellency for the many administrative reforms that you have inaugurated. Your Excellency is loved and honoured over the length and breadth of the country, for your many benevolent acts of far-sighted statesmanship—acts which are even more important for what they will yield in the future than for what they have realized in the present. The system of elementary education, which it is one of the objects of Your Excellency's Government to foster, must result in incalculable benefit to Society. The education of the masses has always been deemed a powerful agent in elevating the con-

dition of the labouring classes, by developing in them habits of sobriety and intelligent industry. By stimulating indigenous industry, now miserably languishing, it will indirectly help in the revival of the languages and literature of the country. Above all, it will form an important foundation on which to rear, at a future time, the principles of political liberty and equality, to the attainment of which some of the most important acts of your administration unmistakably point. It is our earnest wish that we may long continue to have the benefit of your wise and benevolent administration. Praying that the Great Disposer of all things may confer His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Lady Ripon,

We beg to remain,  
Your Excellency's most humble and  
devoted servants,  
*The Students of the Presidency College*

## CHAPTER VII

### LETTERS FROM STUDENTS TO CLASS-FELLOWS AND FRIENDS

No 1—(Asking for Question Papers)

PARK STREET, TRAVANCORE  
4th July, 1885

MY DEAR RAMSWAMY,

Have you forgot your promise to send me a full account of your examination? It is over by this time I suppose, and no doubt you have been successful. I shall be thankful if you send me the question papers.

I hear that there is a great deal of cholera in Madras. We have been remarkably free from it this year, though some cases, I am sorry to say, have occurred within the last few days. All your friends here desire to be very kindly remembered to you.

Yours very truly,  
ANAND RAO

## No 2.—(Letter of Invitation )

MY DEAR KESHO RAM,

Will you give us the pleasure of your company at dinner to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock ? With kind regards,

CHOWK }  
*Tuesday Morning*

Your most sincerely,  
 NAND KISHORE BHUTT.

## No. 3 —(Reply to above )

MY DEAR NAND KISHORE,

I accept with much pleasure your kind invitation for to-morrow evening With kind regards,

NANDGANJ . }  
*Tuesday evening.*

Yours very truly,  
 KESHO RAM.

## No 4.—(Reply to No 2 )

MY DEAR NAND KISHORE,

I am sorry I cannot accept your kind invitation for to-morrow, owing to a previous engagement With kind regards,

NANDGANJ }  
*Tuesday evening*

Believe me,  
 Yours very truly,  
 KESHO RAM

## No 5 —(Requesting an explanation of conduct )

MIAPURA'

17th February, 1894.

To

MR NAZIR AHMAD

SIR,

I require an explanation of your conduct, which, I request you will give me at your earliest convenience, for it is to tell me whether you choose to remain with me on friendly terms as before I have found you of late unusually unkind to me, and yesterday when I met you on the Jumna, I fancied you called me names For one month, I must own, you have entirely cut me—for, I suppose, some new cronies I beg



and entreat of you, you will at once tell me if you value my friendship, which, to judge from your conduct, I am sure, I can't think you do. You must not suppose that because you chanced to be rich I shall ever suffer you to call me names or I shall cringe to obtain a friendship that you seem to reject. I never cared for your gold, and was only your friend, and am still so, unless you go on this way, calling me names whenever and wherever you choose. I shall be obliged for an answer, till then I cannot call myself your friend, but I am,

Yours truly,  
MUHAMMAD RAFI

No 6 —(Reply to above )

MY DEAREST RAFI,

How jealous you are, and though I deny having ever called you names, I must say how foolish you are. Perhaps the unkindness you have of late noticed in me is due to the anxiety I feel for my brother, who, as you may have heard, is suffering seriously. Your passionate and jealous sensibility has only afforded me a laugh, your note I retain and shall preserve for perusal from time to time that I may smile over the recollection of the insignificance of our first and last quarrel.

Yours ever,  
*Sunday* NAZIR

No 7 —(To a friend on the death of his father )

SRIRAMPUR  
26th August, 1896

DEAR AGHORE,—Deeply as I sympathise with you in your heavy loss, I cannot but be grateful that your dear father is relieved from the frightful agony of the past three months, and is in the happy home of the redeemed, enjoying the reward of the pious life that he led.

I know, dear Aghore, how deep and sincere must be your grief at such a heavy bereavement, and trust that Divine Providence will sustain you, and grant you that solemn and sacred comfort that no earthly power can ever take from you

With deepest sympathy,  
I am, dear friend,  
Yours most sincerely,  
RAM KRISHNA

No. 8 —(Proposing reconciliation )

IVAMBARAH

*Tuesday evening.*

MY DEAR RAMSARUP,

I regret very much that you so deeply offended our mutual friend. Salig Ram, this morning at the school By your words, I think, that you are very much piqued with most of our friends and, if I am not much mistaken, you are a little piqued with me. I have, I am sure, done nothing to merit your displeasure. Indeed, Ramsarup you wrong me, but I shall say nothing about it here.

I send you this at the request of Salig Ram, who, though insulted by you, is anxious to be reconciled, if you but retract what you said this day in connection with him and his family

Our examination fee has already been forwarded, so that we continue at our present school a few more days together. But for the Director's circular prohibiting to grant us leave for more than a fortnight before the examination, we should have been dismissed long ere this. Whether we pass or fail, you and I are determined to leave Unao. Is it proper when we leave this school for good that we should leave any unpleasant impression behind?

Yours sincerely,  
JAGDAM SAHAE.

No 9 —(Reply to above )

LALKUAN

*Wednesday morning*

DEAR JAGDAM,

I will thank you to mind your own business and not meddle with others. You are very right, however, that our stay at this school is very short, and a few more days will render us as politely indifferent to each other, as if we had never passed a portion of our time together.

Yours, etc ,

RAM SARUP

No 10 —(To a friend on the death of his brother )

KASGANJ

*July 26th, 1890*

MY DEAR MEWA RAM,— With profound regret and deep sympathy I have heard of your irreparable loss. The mutual friend of yourself and dear Daya Shankar, I know how strong was the love between you, exceeding even that of most brothers, and I can readily feel how deep must be your sorrow and great your loss.

I know that I am powerless to send words that can assuage your affliction, and can therefore only commend you most earnestly to Him, who is the friend of the sorrowful, trusting that His love will dry your tears.

If I can in any way serve or relieve you, call upon me unhesitatingly.

With deep sympathy and affection,

I remain,

Ever your friend,

BHOLA NATH

No 11.—(Requesting to be furnished with test examination papers )

MY DEAR BAJRANG BALI,

The "Herald" publishes the names of our examiners, and I am glad to congratulate you that Mr Mutti of your College is the head examiner in English, so that it is he, who sets the paper. No doubt he will duly mark for his students the passages "most important and likely to be asked at the examination." I shall not be so foolish as to ask you to be guilty of the breach of any confidence that he may thus repose in you, but you may not grudge sending me the Test Examination papers, which will be printed and which you sent me when you were in the Middle class. How are you? I am so so. With my love to you,

BADAUN -  
4th January, 1894 }

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
FARID-UD-DIN,  
1ST CLASS, ZILA SCHOOL

No 12 —(Reply to above )

SULTANPUR  
18th January, 1894

MY DEAR FARID-UD-DIN,

I have much pleasure in sending you herewith our Test Examination papers. As to what you say about Mr. Mutti I must tell you what he said to a student, who, while congratulating him on his appointment as the head examiner, jocosely observed that his students now were sure to pass, no matter how they did at the examination. I have told you, I remember, Mr Mutti is a very funny man. "I shall answer you," says he, "after the methodist preacher, who said to his congregation 'you may think, at the last day, to get to heaven by laying hold on my skirts, but I'll cheat you all,

for I'll wear a spencer, I'll wear a spencer' " With kind regards and wishing you a glorious success in the examination,

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
BAJRANG BALI

No 13 —(Congratulating a friend upon obtaining  
a business situation )

CHELON KA KUOHA .  
17th Novr , 1886

DEAR JUGAL,—I am heartily glad to learn that, notwithstanding the general business depression, you have succeeded in obtaining a clerkship I don't know but my congratulations should be offered to the firm upon obtaining so valuable an assistant as I know you will prove, but you must accept your share too

Wishing you every success,  
I am, my dear fellow  
Yours very truly,  
SANKATA PROSAD

No 14 —(Asking for a return of books )

MY DEAR SIRISH BABU,

I shall be glad if you will return the book that I lent you about four weeks ago, as I have promised to lend it to another friend, and you have already had it for a longer time than you asked for. If you have not finished the book by this time, or desire to read it again, you can have it sent back to you, as soon as the friend, who now expects it, has done with it

The book, as I know well, will bear reading twice In fact, I have found, the more often I read it, the more I see to admire in it.

Hoping to receive the book per bearer,

HARRINGTON STREET }  
Thursday. }

I remain,  
With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
K P. BASU

No 15 —(Reply to above )

MY DEAR MR BASU,

I am sending back the book per bearer I should have returned it sooner for, as you remind me, I have kept it longer than the time by which I undertook to finish and return it

The book is, to my mind, one of the best that I have ever read It has made me fond of reading, and in addition to the amusement it has afforded me, I have derived from it new stock of words and ideas

ESPLANADE ROW .  
Thursday.

With kind regards,  
Believe me,  
Yours very truly,  
SIRISH CHANDRA GUPTA.

No 16 —(To a friend on the death of his mother )

BAREILLY

17th September, 1894

DEAR CHAKRAPANI,—I do not write to attempt to comfort you under your heavy bereavement You will naturally grieve for the loss of so affectionate a parent as you have lost, and time will alone soothe your sorrow Yet, you must even in your first sorrow, remember how much of her place you must fill to your dear father and little Ramup, and in endeavouring to comfort them, God will permit you to find much of your own comfort

If there is any way in which I can assist you, I trust you will call upon me, but unless I can aid you, I will not intrude upon you now

Trusting that a higher power will soothe your sorrow,

I remain,

Ever your friend,

GOCUL PANDEY

No. 17 —(Congratulating a young friend upon successfully passing a school examination )

SIALKOT

*July 7th, 1894*

DEAR BHUP NARAIN,—I was very much pleased to learn from your friend, Jay Chand, that your faithful application to your books during the last school term had resulted in such a brilliant success at your school examination. Knowing how deeply interested your friends have been in your studies, it is very pleasant to see you rewarding them by such conduct as has earned you the warm praises of your teachers

With hearty congratulations upon your success,

I remain, your sincere friend,

NAND LAL

No 18 —(Note of Invitation in a humorous style )

Know all men by these presents, that you, Mr P N Dutta, stand indicted—no—invited, by special and particular solicitation, to Mr Gush Chandra Ghose's to-morrow evening at half past seven o'clock, where you will meet with a civil reception and decent entertainment. Pray come, I have been so examined after you by other friends invited, that I entreat you to answer in person

SATI CHORA GHAT

*17th June, 1893*

No 19 —(Sending books )

DEAR UMESH.—I send you, begging your acceptance, "Monado Monism" by Babu Ram Chundri Sen Late Inspector of Schools, Oudh, and Mr. P K Roy's Notes on Logic. The last I will thank you to read and return in a week the most, as the person of whom I have borrowed it cannot tolerate its existence into hands other than his own for any fraction of time longer than seven days.

GULABI MOHALLA : }  
29th February, 1892 }

Your affectionate friend.  
DINA BANDHU

No 20 —(To a friend on the loss of property by theft)

MUTTURA .

Saturday morning.

DEAR HARI MOHAN BABU —Your little note telling me of your loss last night just reaches me, and I hasten to offer you my sincere regret for it. I hope, however, the prompt information you were able to give to the police will lead to the detection of the robbers and the recovery of your property.

I will see you to-morrow morning, and in the meantime I hope to hear that the offenders will be secured.

Yours very truly,

JAI PROKASH LAL

No 21 —(To a late school-fellow)

MARWARI TOLA, CAWNPORE :

19th February, 1894.

MY DEAR KAKOO MAL,

You have not written to me since you left this station. I was hoping to hear how you like your new school, and whether you think it is as good as the one you left. I myself am quite satisfied to remain where I am : and I think you would have been the same, if your father's change of residence had not made a change of school necessary.



Sada Sheo has not been sent up to the Middle Examination. The headmaster turned a deaf ear to all his protestations, lamentations and tears. He told me he would have himself admitted to the examination as a private candidate through the headmaster, Zila School. But I don't think it is possible under the rules. With love to yourself and your brother,

I remain,  
Your affectionate friend,  
RAM PEAREY.

No. 22 —(Reply to above)

MIRZAPUR "  
*21st February, 1892*

MY DEAR RAM PEAREY,

I was very glad to get your letter, to which you see I am replying by return of post.

I owe you an apology for not being the first to write but this fault you will soon excuse when you henceforth find me a regular correspondent.

I have joined the Kayestha Pathshala. On the whole, I like this school very well, but not quite so well as the one that I have left, in which you still are. What I miss most in the new school is the cricket. Here we have no good cricket ground at present, and until this has been procured, no one takes any trouble to collect subscriptions for buying the bats, balls and wickets. The curriculum of studies is almost exactly the same, and I don't think the teaching is inferior.

I find this a gay town. Here is a Library to which every one has a free access.

My private tutor here is Mr John Das, a teacher of the School.

I am,  
Your affectionate friend,  
KAKOO MAL.

No 23 —(To a friend warning him of an unsafe friendship )

COLONELGANJ

*May 4th, 1892.*

DEAR RAY PERSHAD,—I am deeply pained on reading your last letter, and to find that notwithstanding my warning you are still on terms of intimacy with Hasan Musanna

Cannot you believe, my dear friend, that nothing but the deepest interest in your welfare could have dictated the words of caution I spoke to you? Is it necessary for me to give you all my reasons for saying that I feared you would have cause to regret having ever seen Hasan Musanna If it must be so, I will state plainly why I feel such great uneasiness

I know that Musanna is habitually a scoffer at religion. I have myself heard him say that he is an atheist, and boast of his unbelief How can you expect the principles of virtue in a man, who thus casts his sheet anchor away? He is an intemperate man, and one who does not hesitate to indulge in the vices of young men

I beg of you, therefore, to give him the cut direct. His friendship is not creditable to any God-fearing man, and if he demands any explanation of your conduct, show him this letter. Every line accusing him is founded upon my own observation

I trust that you will heed a warning that is sent in the warmest friendly love and interest

I remain, as ever,  
Your sincere friend,  
HARI DUTTA.

No 24 —(Giving a description of school life )

17, HARRISON, ROAD, CALCUTTA .

*12th October, 1891*

MY DEAR KRISHNANAND,

I am all anxiety to know what your father says to the proposal Surely, it will proceed, surely, a plan laid out with such bright prospects of happiness to us, as well as to you will not be frustrated If your father decline to let you join us, run away, but come by all means

As an inducement to you to join us as speedily as you can, I shall now satisfy your curiosity of knowing how I enjoy my school life here To be frank, a change from a quiet village establishment like that of "Binepis Academy" to the bustle of a great public school was sufficiently trying For the first eight or nine months, I hated the "Lytton Institution" But now I love my school life dearly From a most "unpopular boy" I have at length risen to be a leader in all the sports, schemes, and mischief of the school I fought my way very fairly I think I lost but one battle out of a dozen, and thus the rascal Beni did not win but by the unfair meddling of a party of three My most memorable combats were with Mohan, Jadu and Ganes, but we were always friends afterwards

Atal Babu, the Superintendent of our school, is most indulgent Lads would be led by a silken string to a point, rather than by a cable—it is on this principle he acts We love him so dearly, there is nothing we would refuse him

Mádu Mamah, who has got his son admitted into this school, made an enquiry the other day respecting my progress "Sir," answered our Superintendent, "he has talents, which will do credit to your family one day" "Indeed !!!" said my uncle, with a degree of surprise, that, according to my feeling did not express in it all the satisfaction I expected.

Niratan, Akhil, and Joy Gopal of our village belong to this school Akhil is my form-fellow, and we are both at

the top of our remove. I have acquainted all our mutual friends with your design. They are simply delighted at the idea and will receive no excuse.

More when I see you here in our midst

Yours most sincerely,  
BIRENDRA KUMAR MUKERJI.

No 25 —(To a friend requesting the loan of a book)

MURADPUR :  
27th July, 1889.

MY DEAR DEOSARAN BABU,

While last at your house, you showed me a book, entitled "Social Science," which I remember as a work of so much interest that I feel much inclined to peruse it, and should esteem it a great favour if you would lend it to me. I will take great care of it, and return it in a few days, as I have at present abundant leisure for reading

Yours truly,  
KUNAR BAHADUR.

No. 26 —(Reply to above in the affirmative)

DEAR KUNAR BAHADUR,

You are quite welcome to the volume you express a wish to read ; but I must ask you to let me have it within a fortnight, as I shall then have an occasion for it for some literary purposes.

BANKIPUR :  
Sunday. }

Yours truly,  
DEO SARAN.

No 27.—(Reply to No.25 in the negative.)

MY DEAR KUNAR BAHADUR,

I have unfortunately lent the book you ask for, but should it be returned within a reasonable time I would forward it to you. Regretting to be at present obliged to disappoint you,

BANKIPUR :  
Sunday. }

I remain,  
Yours truly,  
DEO SARAN.

No 28 —(Returning a book borrowed )

MURADPUR  
9th August, 1889

MY DEAR DEOSARAN BABU,

I return you the book which you were kind enough to lend me, and beg you to accept with it my best thanks for the kindness. The book is both interesting and instructive, and I have been much gratified by its perusal. If I can, in any way, return the favour, it will give me much pleasure to do so.

I remain,  
Yours much obliged,  
KUNAR BAHADUR

No 29 —(On miscellaneous subjects )

KHAGRA, MURSHIDABAD .  
2nd May, 1894

MY DEAR HEMANTA KUMAR,

I write again, but don't suppose I mean to lay such a tax upon your pen and patience as to expect regular replies. When you are inclined, write, when silent, I shall have the consolation of knowing that you are much better employed.

Yesterday (not having done so for several weeks), I called on the Chaudharis. I entered, with a lively, unthinking air, the parlour, where Jagannath Chaudhari and a friend were seated, and said, "How does the world go? How have you all been, since I saw you? Where is Radhika Prasad?" I had slightly perceived a certain gravity somewhat more than usual in Jagannath, but did not particularly mind it. After some hesitation, Jagannath said "You have not heard then of our loss. Radhika is dead."

I suppose your town has scarcely escaped the Influenza, which has been so extensive and fatal. Most people in my neighbourhood have had it, and some have been carried off. I have been entirely exempt.

Sincerely yours,  
SHYAMA PROSONNA BARAT.

No. 30 —(Making an enquiry as to an engagement )

MY DEAR BRINDABAN,

Please write a line giving the day that I may take you up according to contract Madan Mohan talks of making a third in our journey, but we can't stow him, inside at least. Positively you shall go with me as was agreed, and don't let me have any of your *politesse* to Madan on the occasion. I will manage to arrange for both with a little contrivance I wish M was not quite so fat.

CANTONMENT : }  
Tuesday Evening }

Truly yours,  
RATAN LAL.

No 31 —(From a boy in the country to a friend at home )

BASANTPUR  
14th April, 1897.

DEAR RAJKUMAR,—I promised to write as soon as I arrived here, and must apologise for the delay. But I have hardly had a quiet moment since I came. You may imagine how we enjoy ourselves. There are all sorts of domestic animals in and around the house, and although I get many a joke made upon my ignorance of country life, it is all in good part, and I find some chances to return the compliment.

Before you have opened your sleepy eyes in the morning, we are out with a hearty breakfast. We find fish in plenty in the little streams around, and have had numbers of famous walks and rides.

There are many boys of my age on the neighbouring farms, and we make pic-nic parties, walking with aunty's biggest basket full of good things, on each aim in turn, till we find a shady spot, where we can fish or have a good game at ball, or whatever strikes our fancy; there we camp for the day, coming home at dusk all ready for the good supper and comfortable beds we know are waiting for us.

I found a young squirrel lately, who was lame, and hopping about under a big tree I have cured his foot, and am taming him He always knows me, and is as pretty and affectionate as a pet can be I shall bring him home with me, so that you can see him

Hari is calling to me that the others are all waiting to go over to a neighbouring pond to spend the day

They are all calling me now, so I must close

Do write soon, and remember me to all the boys at home. I wish you were all here to enjoy as much pleasure as,

Yours sincerely,

GANESH DAS BHARGAVA.

No 32 —(Announcing the desire of going to England )

BADSHAHIMANDI, ALLAHABAD )

14th April, 1893

MY DEAR GOBARDHAN,

The Gazette to-day announced my failure in the examination, and to-morrow I sail for England there to prepare law I am absolutely without prospects in this country All the public offices are mercilessly shut against me, unless I pass the University Examinations, for which I find myself no way qualified You will be taken by surprise, no doubt, and considerably annoyed And yet there are many, who will be only too glad thus to get rid of me This morning, I asked Phoni to come and sit an hour with me, he excused himself; and what do you think his excuse was? He was engaged with a class-friend preparing for the Law Examination, and that examination you know to take place three months hence. And he knows I set out to-morrow to be absent for years, perhaps never to return Friendship! Love!! Gratefulness!!! False words these I don't believe I shall leave behind, some relatives excepted, a single being who will care what becomes of me. I carry in addition to the passage money but six

hundred rupees I don't think my brothers will have the heart to refuse me expenses, when they see I have crossed the Rubicon. More when I reach London.

Most sincerely yours,  
BHAGAVATI PRASAD.

No. 33 —(Acknowledging receipt of a letter.)

BILASPUR .  
17th May, 1894.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have just received your letter. I feel your kindness very deeply I *do* like to hear from you, more than *like*. Next to seeing you, I have no greater satisfaction But you have other duties, and greater pleasures, and I should regret to take a moment from either.

What you have written about your friend, Dasarath, at the close of your letter, is another proof in favour of my opinion of mankind. How much you did for him, and what a return you have received ! Such you will always find men—selfish and distrustful. I except none The cause of this is the state of society In the world, every man is to stir for himself—it is useless, perhaps selfish, to expect anything from a neighbour.

I am acquainted with no *immaterial sensuality* so delightful as good acting. I was to the City Theatre last night, and found Radhika perfection, particularly her last look. I was close to her on a reserved seat, and never saw an Indian countenance half so expressive

I am well. Hoping you are the same,

I remain,  
Yours truly,  
SHEO CHARAN PANDEY.



No. 34 —(To a friend complaining of long silence )

JODHPUR

*4th January, 1896*

DEAR MAGAN,—Do you know that it is now three long months since I have had one line from your pen, although this is the fourth letter I have written in that time ? What can be the cause of your strange silence ? Have I been so unfortunate as to use any word or expression that has pained or offended you ? I trust not , but if such is the case, believe me that it was most unintentional, and at least give me a chance to explain the matter

Sometimes I fear that you are ill, and my heart aches to think of you so far away, among strangers, upon a bed of sickness I am longing to send you a full sheet of chat, but will wait until I hear something from you that induces me to think another letter will be acceptable

I remain, yours truly,

MEHDI HASAN

No 35 —(Begging kindness and protection for a very young student )

HATHRAS

*17th May, 1892*

MY DEAR JAGAT PANDIT,

You must have quite forgotten the writer of these lines, who would probably be unable to recognise *yourself*, from the difference which must naturally have taken place in your stature and appearance, since he saw you last I was rambling through Kashmir, Rajputana, Sindh, etc, etc, for some years, and have found so many changes on my return, that it would be very unfair not to expect that you should have had your share of alteration and improvement with the rest I am, you may know, the only son of my father, whose official duties taking him to the above places,

I also visited them in his company. My father engaged a travelling tutor for me, so that my education has not been neglected

I write to request a favour of you, a little boy of 11 years, the son of Mr. Dikshit, my private tutor, is about to join the Govt School at Aligarh, and I should esteem any action of protection or kindness to him as an obligation to myself

I was happy to hear a very favourable account of you from a school-fellow a few weeks ago, and should be glad to learn that your family are as well as I wish them to be. I presume you are in the 4th year class now, and will look down upon one, who is no University man. But I never, even in my boyish days, disputed your superiority, which I once experienced in a cricket match, where I had the honour of making one of eleven, who were beaten to their heart's content by your batch in *one* innings.

Sincerely yours,

PREM NARAIN CHOWBEY.

No 36 —(Giving an account of a school-fellow)

UJJAIN

14th January, 1894.

MY DEAR BINDA PRASAD,

You have not answered some four letters of mine. This, therefore, is my penultimate. I will write to you once more, but, after that, I swear by all the saints—I am silent and supercilious.

Since I last wrote to you, much has occurred good, bad, and indifferent. The best thing that has happened is that Jaskaran Lal, about whom you told me a long time ago, has joined our college. He beats every body in mischief; his imagination is beyond human, and his humour perfect. It is difficult to define what his wit is. When he took his admission the Principal asked him, "Whence do you come?" "From Kabul", returned Jaskaran, with imperturbable gravity.

Jaskaran has fifty faces, and twice as many voices, when he mimics—I never met his equal. He is quite fascinating. Remember, I have met him but once, and you, who have known him long, may deduct from my panegyric.

I send you per to-day's mail a copy of "Oriental Tales". There are in it many beautiful passages, and an interesting story, and I can't give you a stronger proof that such is my opinion than that it kept me awake last night till 2 o'clock. Please return the book after you have done with it.

Yours sincerely,  
HARDAYAL MAL

No 37 —(Giving an account of misfortune )

SHAHJAHANPUR :  
15th June, 1893

MY DEAR SALIG RAM,

Some curse hangs over me and mine. Yesterday's Gazette announced my failure at the examination, and this day a letter from Sukdeo informs me of the death of my dearest friend on earth, Ram Saran. Only last week, I heard of his illness, and, this week, I hear of his death. These two blows have followed each other so closely that I am all stupid from the shock, and though I do eat, and drink, and talk, and even laugh at times, I can hardly persuade myself that I am awake. You knew Ram Saran, and esteemed him. He was indeed the god of my idolatry and, if goodness could exalt a man above his fellows, no one could refuse him pre-eminence in ability. Who, among us, could equal him? How did we all shrink before him? Sukdeo did me but justice in saying, I would have risked my paltry existence to have preserved his. This very evening did I mean to write, inviting him, as I invite you, to visit me. Come to me, Salig Ram. I am desolate, left almost alone in the world.

Yours truly,  
HARDEO PRASAD.

No 38.—(To an acquaintance requesting an explanation of unfavourable comments upon him)

PIR BAHORE

*25th November, 1897*

DEAR SIR,—I have just had a long interview with a mutual friend of yours and mine, who has surprised me by repeating your unfounded assertions with regard to me. Of course, what is merely your opinion, I have no right to resent, though I regret that it should be so unfavourable; but I have a right to demand your grounds for asserting that I am a villain, a hypocrite, and concerned in more dishonourable transactions than one.

Will you have the goodness to inform me on whom I practised my villainy, how I played the hypocrite, and in what dishonourable transactions I have been concerned?

I remain,

Yours in anxiety,  
MAULA BUX.

No. 39 —(Reply to the foregoing.)

MURADPUR .

*25th November, 1897*

MR. MAULA BUX,—The high tone of your letter might impose upon one who was not so well acquainted with your history previous to your arrival at this place as I happen to be. My opinion was founded upon a knowledge of your life while you lived at Arrah.

When I inform you that Lala Nawal Kishore is one of my most intimate friends and constant correspondents, you will not again request a list of your misdoings. If you consider your course of conduct in deceiving your uncle, endeavouring to ruin your young cousin, Habibulla, and attempting to get your headmaster insulted in the Bazar, *honourable*, I can only say that I differ in opinion.

SHANKAR LAL SRIVASTAVA.

No 40 —(In reply to an enquiry about a fellow-student)

MOTIHARI

15th August, 1890.

MY DEAR RAGHUVANF,

You have made enquiries about Sheo Dularay. He is a friend of mine, and in the same remove. So I am in a position to say a good deal about him. When he first came to our school from yours, he was shy to a degree. I tried to bring him forward by enquiries as to his former amusements, employments, and associates, but with little or no effect. Much of his coyness, he has now shaken off. As a scholar, he is greatly my superior, and makes exercises for half the class. At times, he begs me to let him do my exercises, a request always most readily granted, especially when I want to do something else. On the other hand, he is pacific, and I savage, so I fight for him, or thrash others for him, or thrash himself to make him thrash others, when it is necessary as a point of honor that he should so chastise. Now I think I have given you sufficient information about Dularay. And so good bye.

Yours truly,

MADHUBAN SINGH

No 41 —(An invitation)

AGRA

11th September, 1896

MY DEAR BRAJ KISHORE,—Half a dozen good fellows and myself are going to devote a few hours on Saturday evening to the enjoyment of a few glasses of lemonade, chit-chat, and so on. I hope you will make one, as we have not enjoyed the "feast of reason and flow of soul" in each other's company for some time past.

Believe me,

My dear Braj Kishore,

Yours ever,

ANANT RAM.

No 42 —(Giving an account of an author )

JOHNSTONGANJ, ALLAHABAD

*4th June, 1893*

MY DEAR NEWAL KISHORE,

Friday last week was a most beautiful day. The wind was pleasant, the sky, the earth, and the water, sweet to look upon. You know I have never been over-fond of circles. But, in the evening that day, I went to the Alfred Park, where, at this time of the year, all the boys of the College make continual resort. There I chanced to meet Babu Ayodhya Pershad, whose key to the Entrance Course we used to consult together at Ghazipur. He is a pale, thin man, almost a skeleton. He is reputed throughout the town to be a man of letters. He is so open, I became friends with him in no time. And would you believe me?—I begged him to dine with me at my lodging on Sunday next, which he most courteously promised. That so cherished a guest might not lack better entertainment than my poor Maharaj could provide, I sent to the house of my private tutor, Lala Rup Narain, a distinguished graduate of the Allahabad University, to beg that he too would be my guest—in the hope that, though not known to each other, they might think themselves united by their common art. And so indeed it proved. For they talked long together on literary subjects. They, however, held different views on the reading of novels. Babu Ayodhya Pershad expressed his strong partiality for the lighter and more attractive forms of literature, while my tutor was decidedly in favour of austere studies. Comparison is always odious. But I have been so greatly persuaded by the arguments of Babu Ayodhya Pershad that I have sent for “Robinson Crusoe” and “Don Quixote,” books that he highly recommended to me. The two gentlemen continued at my place for some three hours that day, and, believe me, those three hours I should ever regard among the happiest hours of my existence. The very next day, Babu Ayodhya Pershad left for Calcutta, where he

told me his services had been engaged as a private tutor to a rich Zamindar. Had I not gone to the park on Friday last I should probably have never been acquainted with so great and yet so amiable a man. Here at least is one of your reasons, why one should have a daily walk. Babu Ayodhya Pershad was, I know not why, very unpopular among men here. To his own students, however, he was the idol of admiration. I, for one, shall ever remember him with love and esteem.

Sincerely yours,  
HARISH CHANDRA

No 43 —(Refusing an offer of loan)

6, MANICK BOSE'S GHAT STREET  
*Tuesday morning*

MY DEAR RAM GOPAL,

Your offer is liberal in the extreme. But I have made it a point never to borrow, to perish, rather than borrow. I wish you would not throw temptations in my path. It is not from a disdain of the universal idol, nor from a superfluity of his treasures I can assure you, that I refuse to worship him, but what is right is right, and I must not yield to circumstances.

Sincerely yours,  
RATAN SARKAR.

No 44 —(Complaining of loneliness)

BAIDYAPARA, JAMALPUR.  
*4th May, 1894*

MY DEAR HARI DAS,

I can easily excuse your not writing, as you have, I hope, something better to do, and you must pardon my frequent invasions on your attention, because I have at this moment nothing to interpose between you and my epistles.

The examination result has not been yet out, and my days pass, with the exception of bodily exercise to some extent, in uniform indolence and insipidity.

I am now not quite alone, having an old acquaintance and college-fellow with me, so *old*, indeed, that we have nothing *new* to say on any subject, and yawn at each other in a sort of *quiet inquietude*. I hear nothing from any of my Bhagalpur friends. I wonder if they have all joined a conspiracy to cut me.

I have asked Khnode Babu to apprise me of the result by telegram, if I pass. If he don't send me any, I shall conclude myself plucked. Whether I pass or fail, I am determined to leave the present college. Where I shall go next, I have not yet decided.

Raja Kampal Rae is here lecturing on political subjects. "Many an old fool", said Hannibal of some such lecturer "but such as this never." I attended his first lecture here, and just after he uttered his first sentence, I left the hall in disgust. It was, "Gentlemen, whenever I rise to speak, I have to disappoint you."

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
BEHARI LAL GUPTA.

No 45.—(Requesting the loan of some books during sickness.)

KINARI BAZAR :  
*Saturday*

DEAR RAM DAS,—I am far from well; indeed I have been confined to my bed for some days past, and have enjoyed no amusement but such as the few books I have got afforded me. I write to beg the loan of some of the "Waverley" novels, of which I know you possess a complete set. They shall be taken every possible care of, and returned as regularly as read. Pray look in for half an hour now and then, and speak a few words of comfort to—

Yours very sincerely,  
BANSI DHAR.



No 46.—(Reply to the foregoing)

DRUMMOND ROAD ·

*Saturday.*

MY DEAR BANSIDHAR,—How grieved I am to hear of your illness I send you half a dozen volumes, which I hope will lighten the tediousness of your bed-confinement, and will come and see you to-morrow morning I should have done so ere now, but have been too much engaged

Wishing sincerely to find you better,

I remain,

Yours ever affectionately,

RAM DAS

No 47 —(In a tone of humour and dejection)

CHURIWALI GALLI, LUCKNOW :

*12th September, 1892*

MY DEAR BAIJ NATH CHAUDHURI,

My failure in the last M A Examination has made me an altered personage,—I do not mean in body, but in manners, for I begin to find out that nothing but virtue will do in this d—d world I am tolerably sick of vice, which I have tried in its agreeable varieties, and now mean to cut all my dissolute associates. I am very serious and cynical, and a good deal disposed to moralise, but fortunately for you, the coming homily is cut off by the defection of paper

And now, Baij Nath, what are you doing? Reading, I trust, I want to see you take a degree Don't disappoint your father and your aunt, and all your kin—besides myself Don't you know that all male children are begotten for the express purpose of being graduates?

Note that it is but a parenthetical scrawl It is no answer to yours, which I shall send shortly

With my best compliments,

I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

RAM PERSHAD BAJPAI

No 48 —(Complaining of a melancholy state of mind )

BAREILLY.

12th January, 1891

MY DEAR JADUVAR,

You write most excellent epistles. A fig for other correspondents, with their nonsensical apologies for "having nothing to write upon." Your letters are truly a great solace to me, and in particular at this time, when melancholy has been gaining fast upon my mind. You know laughing is the sign of a rational animal. I think so too, but unluckily my spirits do not always keep pace with my opinions. The 17th January is the last day for forwarding the examination fee. Circumstanced as I now am, I don't think I shall send my fee. Write, write, write. Adio.

Yours truly,

RAM BEHARI

*P S*—Some have wondered at the melancholy which runs through my letters and the highest gaiety which they notice in me personally. Rudra Pratap, my most intimate friend, has studied me thoroughly on the subject, upon some of my acquaintances remarking of late my high spirits, "And yet, Rudra," I said, "I have been called and miscalled melancholy—you must have seen how falsely, frequently." "No, Ram Behari," he answered, "it is not so, at heart you are the most melancholy of mankind, and often when apparently gayest."

RAM BEHARI

No 49 —(Describing an adventure )

MIRZAPUR

9th August, 1892

MY DEAR KARUNA SHANKAR,

I *could* be very sentimental in this letter. But I won't. The truth is that I have been all my life trying to harden my

heart, and have not quite yet succeeded—though there are great hopes—and you don't know how it sank with your departure. What adds to my regret is having seen so little of you during your stay in this crowded desert, where one ought to be able to bear thirst like a camel,—the springs are so few, and most of them so muddy.

It is certainly a little extraordinary that you did not send me Webb's *Etiquette* immediately on your arrival there, as I requested. I had hoped it would not require a note to remind you of it.

I had an adventure the most ridiculous at the amateur Theatrical performance here the other day. I quarrelled with a man in the dark for asking me who I was (insolently enough to be sure,) and followed him into the green-room in a rage amongst a set of people I never saw before. He turned out to be a low musician, engaged to act with the amateurs, and to be a civil-spoken man enough, when he found out that nothing very pleasant was to be got by rindness. But you would have been amused with the row, and the dialogne, and the dress—or rather the undress—of the party, where I had introduced myself in a devil of a hurry, and the astonishment that ensued. I had gone out of the theatre for coolness into the garden,—there I had tumbled over some dogs, and coming away from them in very ill humour, encountered the man in a worse, which produced all this confusion.

Yours faithfully,  
JAY NARAIN SINHA.

No 50 —(Congratulating a friend on his success)

ALLAHABAD.  
10th June, 1894.

MY DEAR RAMAPAT,

Though I wrote to you so recently, I break upon you again to congratulate you, as you must have already anticipated.

pated, on your success in the late Intermediate Examination. Hari Krishn told me he had sent you a telegram apprising you of the news, so I send you only this letter I have to send other intimations to friends, who deputed me for the purpose, therefore I beg leave of you

I remain,  
With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
UMESH CHANDRA.

P S—How is your brother ?

P. S—I open my letter again to tell you that Abdul Rahman has also passed.

No 51 —(Sending intimation of recovery)

MY DEAR JALAL-UD-DIN,

If you please, we will drop the formal 'Mr' and adhere to the appellations sanctioned by the authors of our being.

I thank you for your enquiries I have after all shaken off the sickness It is gone to the devil, I won't pay him so bad a compliment as to say it came from him; he is too much of a gentleman It was nothing but a slow fever, which quickened its pace towards the end of its journey. I had been bored with it some weeks—with nocturnal burning and morning perspiration; but I am quite well again, which I attribute to having had neither medicine, nor doctor thereof

If you see Rakhal, will you please tell him that I shall answer his letter the moment I can muster time and spirits ?

Most sincerely yours,  
MUHAMMAD ZAKI

GAZIPUR.  
14th January, 1890.

No 52 —(Apologising for irregularity )

GUPTIPARAH

16th December, 1893

DEAR NILMANI,

I know I deserve a scolding for my negligence in not writing more frequently , but while preparing so hard for the Test Examination the last two months, how was it possible to fulfil the duties of a correspondent ?

I have done well at the examination, indeed, better than I expected But it is vain to expect that I shall beat Tarak Kumar. He must carry the palm, at least in the school examinations

You see nothing of my friends, Kashi Krishna and Nobe Gopal—they don't suit you , but how does it happen that I—who am a pipkin of the same pottery—continue in your good graces ?

Hoping to hear from you soon about your Text Examination results,

I remain,

Yours truly,

KALI KUMAR

No 53 —(Declining to give advice )

KALYANI, MUZAFFARPUR :

20th December, 1891

MY DEAR FATEH BAHADUR,

Better late than never As this saying is applicable on the present occasion of my long silence, you will excuse its conspicuous place in the front of my epistle

With regard to the person of whom you speak, your own good sense must direct you I never pretend to advise, being an implicit believer in the old proverb

When will your college be closed ? Our school closes on the 22nd. I hope it will not be long before you will be able to come and pay us a visit

Yours sincerely,  
KALI CHARAN

No 54 —(Invitation letter )

DEAR MR MAKKHAN LAL,

Will you and your brother give me the pleasure of your company at dinner on *Saturday, April 2nd*, at 9 o'clock ?

WELLENDGANJ,  
*Thursday*

}

Yours sincerely,  
BINDA PRASAD.

No 55 —(Reply to above in the affirmative )

DEAR BINDA PERSHAD,

My brother and I have much pleasure in accepting your kind invitation to dinner on *Saturday, April 2nd*

CHOWK, }  
*Friday* }

Yours sincerely,  
MAKKHAN LAL.

No 56 —(Reply to No 54 in the negative )

DEAR BINDA PERSHAD,

My brother and I much regret that a previous engagement prevents us from accepting your kind invitation to dinner on *Saturday*

CHOWK, }  
*Friday.* }

Yours sincerely,  
MAKKHAN LAL

No 57 —(An invitation card )

Mr Ganguli requests the pleasure of Mr. Ram Das Gupta's company at dinner, on *Monday, April 9th*, at 9 o'clock

GULABGANJ :  
*April 2nd, 1894.*

No 58 —(Reply to above )

Mr Ram Das Gupta has much pleasure in accepting Mr Ganguli's kind invitation to dinner on Monday, April 9th.

HARSHANKRI,  
*April 3rd, 1894*

No 59 —(Reply to No 57)

Mr Ram Das Gupta much regrets that, owing to a previous engagement, he is unable to accept his kind invitation to dinner on Monday, April 9th

HARSHANKRI,  
*April 3rd, 1894*

No 60 —(An invitation card )

### KATRA DEBATING CLUB

The President and committee request the honour of Mr D Banerji's presence at their Annual Meeting at the Kayestha Pathshala on *Sunday, the 17th Instant*, at 6 P M. The Hon'ble Mr Justice Banerji will preside

No 61 —(Requesting a friend to come and spend the evening )

LASHKAR,  
*Saturday*

MY DEAR JADUVAR,

Will you do me the favour of coming and spending the evening with us? Balaji Guru is going to bring his guitar and we shall have some music When we get tired of that, we may play at chess, or do any thing else that you choose

Yours sincerely,  
KATAR NIKAR

No 62—(Requesting a friend to come and spend the evening )

MY DEAR NAOROJI,

We are having an informal entertainment this evening, and are asking some of our most intimate friends to join us,

We intend having a conjurer who is said to be very clever, and an amateur Theatrical performance by some of our college friends Will you give us the pleasure of your company ?

POONA, }  
*Saturday morning* }

Yours sincerely,  
RUSTUMJI

No 63 —(Inviting to a picnic)

6, MANICK BOSE'S GHAT STREET,  
*7th August, 1893.*

DEAR HARANATH BABU,

Can I persuade you to join our picnic on Sunday next? It is to be held at Lilloah, and we are all to assemble there at 2 o'clock, and shall number between 10 and 12, including Shyam Sundar and Jagat Sinha, both of whom you know

Believe me,

Very truly yours,

SIDHESHWAR MUKERJI

No 64 —(Congratulating on success in examination)

WELLENDGANJ, LAHORE  
*12th June, 1894.*

DEAR SHISHUPAL SINHA,—I have the greatest pleasure in congratulating you on your success in the last F A examination You have passed with credit, and so far, it is satisfactory that your hard work has not been in vain I suppose you intend to continue your studies at the college You ought to do so, as you are still very young, and need not enter life so soon With the best wishes that your future may be as bright as your past has been,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

LACHHMAN PERSHAD.

P S —A postscript is a natural appendage to a letter I have only to add that Ram Sarup also has passed.



CHAPTER VIII.

BUSINESS LETTERS

No 1 —(Ordering for books )

HALDI GHAT, SITAMARHI -

1-7-94

DEAR SIR,

Will you have the goodness to send to my address, at your earliest convenience, three copies of "Indian Student's Letter-Writer" by Upendra Nath and Jatindra Nath? I send you this day a postal order for Rs 2, which I trust will cover the cost and postage

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

GANGADIN MISSER

LALA RAM NARAIN LAL,

BOOKSELLER, PUBLISHER, ETC ,

184, Katra Road,

Allahabad

No 2 —(Ordering for books per value payable post )

GANGNI SUKUL'S TALAO, LUCKNOW

15-6-94

DEAR SIR,

I should deem it a favour if you would send me the following books per V P P at your earliest convenience —

- 14 Copies of Catechism of Indian School Grammar
- 3 Copies of Key to Nesfield's Middle Reader, Pt I by J N Sen
- 2 Copies of Balkrishen's Senior Arithmetic
- 5 Copies of Translation Exercises by Munshi Dwarka Peishad

Yours faithfully,

HANUMAN PERSHAD

MANAGER, NATIONAL BOOK DEPOT,

Allahabad

No 3 —(Asking for a catalogue )

IMAMBARI, HUGHLI :

*17th August, 1893.*

DEAR SIRs,

Would you have the kindness to send me at your earliest convenience a copy of your latest catalogue of school books? Please let me know your terms and state what discount you allow on large orders.

I am,

Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

ROMONI MOHAN CHATTERJI.

MESSRS NEWMAN & Co

No 4 —(Complaining of delay in execution of order )

HAZRATGANJ, LUCKNOW

*12th November, 1893*

DEAR SIR,

On the 3rd Instant, I sent you an order, begging you to execute it immediately. So many as nine days have now elapsed, but the books have not yet come to hand. neither have I received any reply to my letter. This delay has put me to the greatest inconvenience, and I cannot understand, if you found it impossible to send the books, why you did not write to that effect.

I now write most positively to say that unless the books reach me by the 20th Instant at the very latest, I will refuse them, as after that date, they will be perfectly useless to me.

Trusting that you will use every effort to prevent further disappointment and delay,

I remain,

Yours faithfully.

HARADHAN BHATTACHARJI.

No 5 —(Making an appointment)

KAGZIMANDI  
15th May, 1894

DEAR SIR,

I wrote to you at Chola a few days since (last Tuesday, I think), but as I have not yet received any reply, I conclude you are not staying there at present, but have moved your quarters to town, and take the liberty of addressing you at Khurja

If you are likely to be at Bulandshahr this week or the next, I intend going over, and doing myself the honour of calling. The favour of a line, if convenient, per return of post, stating whether I should find you at your lodging with leisure to grant me an audience of an hour or so, would very much oblige

Yours very faithfully,  
DHANESH PERSEAD.

LALA MATADIN LAL.

No 6 —(Requesting a publisher to send a specimen copy)

DARANAGAR, BENARES.  
17th July, 1897.

To

LALA RAM NARAIN LAL,  
BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER,  
Allahabad

DEAR SIR,—I understand you have just published 'Text Examination Papers in English and Indian History' by Mr Murphy. May I request you to send me a specimen copy of it and to state what discount you will allow me if I purchase 25 copies of it at a time?

Yours faithfully,  
NAU NEHAL SINGH.

No 7 —(Soliciting subscription to a work)

204, DOWN TOWN STREET, CALCUTTA :

15th November, 1893.

SIR

I am going to publish the lectures on Heat and Light delivered by our Professor, Dr. Mohendra Lal Sircar, during the present session before the Association for the cultivation of Science. I find the subject is of too exclusive a nature to suit the taste of Calcutta publishers. and I am therefore desirous of publishing it by subscription May I take the liberty of trespassing on your kindness by soliciting the favour of your name in addition to the enclosed list of subscribers to the forthcoming work? I venture to hope that it will be of sufficient interest to merit your patronage, should you be willing to accord it.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully

SATISH CHANDRA MUKERJI.

SHASHIBHUSHAN BANDOPADHAYA, ESQ

No 8 —(A Reply to the above, declining)

Mr. Shashibhushan Bandopadhyaya presents his compliments to Mr Satish Chandra Mukerji, but regrets that, in consequence of many similar applications to him, he is unable to subscribe to a work, the usefulness of which he fully recognises.

CALCUTTA,

17th November, 1893

No 9.—(A reply to No 7, assenting)

ST XAVIER'S CALCUTTA.

17th November, 1893

DEAR SIR,

Pray add my name to your list, and feel assured of my best wishes for the success of your undertaking

Yours faithfully

SHASHIBHUSHAN BANDOPADHAYA.

No 10 —(Asking for a return of book )

55, BEADON STREET, CALCUTTA :

19th September, 1893

DEAR SIR —I should be much obliged, could you spare the first volume of "Life of Johnson", as a member of the library wishes to consult it just now, and the usual time of detention has transpired.

I remain,

DEAR SIR,

Yours faithfully,

ABHOY CHANDRA PARAMANIK

*Secretary, "Students' Circulating Library."*

No 11 —(Returning books to the publisher )

BENGALI TOLA, BENARES .

25th July, 1894.

DEAR SIR,—I was imposed upon, I must candidly say, to see your notice calling your book 'An exhaustive key' That you should call a key consisting of but 30 or 40 pages 'exhaustive' and charge 10 as per copy for this trash is, to say the least of it, a disgrace to you as well as to the compiler. I never expected such a thing from you, I confess. It is possible that because of the bustle and hurry with which books are purchased and sold the first few days during the commencement of a session you may be able to sell off 2 or 3 hundred copies of your admirable publication, but I tell you in the long run you shall be a loser. As for myself, I beg to return per goods train the 30 copies of your "exhaustive Key" and hope you will be good enough to refund me their price. If you decline to do so, I give you notice that I will adopt some sure method of exposing you

Yours faithfully,

HARBANS LAL.

No. 12 —(Returning a book to the publisher )

PIRNAGAR, GHAZIPUR :

*18th August, 1897*

DEAR SIR,—I requested you to send me a copy of Macaulay's Horatius edited and annotated by Kali Charan Ghose, while you sent me that by Hari Mohan. You should not have done so. I beg to return you this book per today's mail under a registered cover in the hope that you will either refund me the price or send me a copy of the edition I actually sent for.

Yours faithfully,  
JATADHARI.

No 13.—(To a physician asking his advice )

GIDHAUR

*25th February, 1893.*

DEAR SIR,

For a long time past I have been suffering in the most distressing manner from a long train of symptoms which have baffled the skill of all the medical men here, and which, I fear, if not arrested in their progress, will terminate in the total prostration of my strength. Loss of appetite, want of healthy sleep and consequent depression on rising in the morning, render life quite a burden to me, and interfere seriously with my studies. I am 21 years old, slightly corpulent, and of sedentary habits. My present debility is mainly the effect of a book-worm's life that I have been leading for upwards of 3 years. Being naturally shy, I avoid the society of men, and my constant companions are books. Indeed, I cannot do without them. I am afraid my liver is sadly deranged, and this is why at night I dream the most absurd dreams.

My friend, Lala Ram Khelawan Lal, who has been staying here for a few days, speaks in high terms of your treatment of him under similar circumstances. As far as I can perceive, our constitutions, as well as our complaints, are very

similar, and so satisfied am I of your professional repute, that I would have gladly paid a visit to Calcutta to consult you in person, various reasons, however, render that impossible, and I therefore hope that you will enter with me into a correspondence on this subject. Meanwhile, I beg to forward a postal money order for Rs 15, and assure you that I shall think the restoration of my health more than an equivalent for any sum it may cost me.

I am,  
Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
JAY GOVIND SINHA

BABU BINODE LAL SEN KAVIRAJ

No 14 —(Requesting a Doctor to attend)

Babu Raj Krishna Mitter presents his compliments to Dr Amar Nath Basu, and requests him to call as early as he can, and see his younger brother, who has been ailing for the last three days, and in whom alarming symptoms of fever are now visible.

COLONELGANJ,  
15th August, 1894

No 15 —(Recommending a Man Servant)

DARAGANJ,  
Thursday

DEAR SIR,—The bearer of this, Ram Khelawan, has been in my employ for six months, during which time I have found him faithful in the discharge of his duties, honest, reliable and industrious. Gobaidhan Babu, his former employer, recommended him very warmly to me.

Yours truly,  
KEWAL SINGH.

No. 16 —(To a landlord, begging a favour )

3, BOWBAZAR, CALCUTTA :

*12th September, 1892.*

DEAR SIR,

I have been your tenant for upwards of three years in the house where I now live, and you know that I never failed to pay my rent regularly, when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you, that owing to the temporary embarrassment of my guardian, I am under the necessity of begging that you will allow me one month longer. By that time I must have it in my power to meet your just demand, and the favour shall be gratefully acknowledged by

*Yours faithfully,*

DURGA DAS MUKERJI

No 17 —(Opening account at a Post Office Savings Bank )

Pandit Lachchhu Ram has the pleasure to forward per bearer currency notes to the value of Rupees fifty (Rs 50), and to request that the Post Master will be good enough to place the same to the credit of an account to be opened in his name

3, MINT STREET, MADRAS .

*6th June, 1894*

No 18.—(Subscribing to a Journal )

Babu Adya Pershad requests the Manager, "Cochin Argus" to place his name down in the list of his subscribers to the weekly edition of the journal, and to send a receipt for the enclosed cheque for Rs 9 in payment of the subscription and postage from 1st January to 31st December, 1889.

HIGH GROUND, BANGALORE :

*4th January, 1889.*



No 19 —(Returning a book to the publisher )

DARAGUNGE, ALLAHABAD.

14th July, 1897

DEAR SIR,—There is such a charm about the academical title- *B A*, *M A*, etc that we are easily imposed upon by them. It is probably because works of native graduates teem with grammatical aberrations of the most disgraceful type that the late Director of Public Instruction attempted to stop their publication and himself took to key writing. The Catechism of History of India by a well-known graduate of our university, that you agreeably to my request, sent me, I regret to say, contains, as our teacher pointed out to-day in the class, a cart-load of grammatical errors. If necessary, I shall send you a list of those errors. For the present, I shall only say that your author does not even know that questions framed in the Imperative form require the period after them and not the sign of Interrogation as he has put after some 50 questions of this nature

There is a rumour that the individual whose name appears on the title page of your publications is not the real author, that the name is but a bait to catch innocent school boys and helpless schoolmasters, and that the real compilers are raw collegians hired for the purpose. At Allahabad I find what I have just said is no mere rumour, but an open secret. It is the Mufasssalites that fall an easy prey to your artifices

I beg to return herewith the copy of Catechism and hope that you will send me back its price

Yours faithfully,

KAULESHWAR RAE

No 20 —(Representing a grievance to a Water-Company)

BADSHAHIMANDI, 5th July, '93.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ALLAHABAD WATER-WORKS

SIR.—I beg to call your attention to the very objectionable state of the water supplied to my house. The supply is

irregular, and the quality perfectly unwholesome I must request the favour of your immediate attention to this serious defect, and am, Sir,

Yours, etc,  
SATCOURI BANERJI.

No 21 —(Representing a postal grievance)

209, KINGS ROAD :  
Howrah, 5th June, 1890.

To

THE POST MASTER,  
HOWRAH

SIR,

It is with much regret that I beg to bring to your notice the conduct of post peon No 5 Not only is this man in the habit of never delivering in the evening the letters that he receives at the third delivery and of bringing them to us so late as the next morning, but of miscairying letters. This morning two letters were delivered by this man at my house not addressed to me, which I beg to return herewith Two days ago, this man delivered at the house of my neighbour, Babu Basanta Kumar Chaudhari, Deputy Magistrate, a post card, which I got from him only an hour ago I need not comment on such conduct I respectfully beg you will see to it

Yours faithfully,  
PROFULLA KUMAR RAE

No 22 —(Giving an unfavourable character of a servant)

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your enquiries with regard to Mahadeo, I would state that he was in my service for 2 weeks. I think he is honest and obliging, but so slovenly and careless that I was obliged to discharge him.

Yours truly,  
SADHO BHATT.

MACHHLI BAZAR,  
Friday

No. 23 —(Enclosing currency note in payment of account )

JAGAMBARI, BENARES

8th June, 1894.

DEAR SIR,

Enclosed I beg to hand you a currency note for the amount of your account, Rs. 20 Please acknowledge, and return statement received The no of the note is given below

Yours faithfully,

NIL COMAL BHUTTACHARJI.

No 24 —(Requesting a friend to engage a house )

BALLIA

20th June, 1894

MY DEAR HARI KRISHN BABU,

If you have a moment to spare during the week, will you engage for me a good house near the college, in one of the main streets, if possible? Rent moderate, of course You might engage the house for six months, and I have such a confidence in your judgment that I leave the settlement of all terms to you Write as soon as you decide, and we shall arrange for leaving Hoping to be excused for this trespass on your time,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

SHEO PROKASH

No 25 —(Introducing a friend who is paying a visit to Agra )

12, COSSIPORE ROAD, COSSIPORE:

15th May, 1894

MY DEAR JAGAT DULAL,

The bearer of this, Babu Shib Chandra Ash, is about to pay a visit to Agra As he has never been in that city before, he requests me to introduce him to some one, who will give him the assistance he may need in a place of which he knows nothing. He is a college friend of mine, and belongs to one of the most respectable families of this place. I have ventured

red to assure him that he may depend on finding in you a friend whose experience and advice will be always at his disposal. Any services that you may be able to render my friend during his short stay at Agra will be regarded as a personal favour by

Yours very truly,  
RADHIKA NATH CHUCKRABURTY.

No 26 —(Requesting a landlord to repair house )

GHATTAL

19th August, 1893

DEAR SIR,

When I took your house it was on the distinct understanding that you should keep it in a state of thorough repair. I regret to say though I sent you word more than once that the roof wanted reparation, you took no notice of it. Owing to last night's heavy rain, there has been a good deal of leakage and the water coming through has damaged my furniture considerably. I give you notice therefore that unless the necessary repairs are commenced at once, I will leave the house to-morrow.

Yours faithfully,  
KASHI CHARAN MITRA

## CHAPTER IX.

### APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS.

No 1 —(Applying for clerkship )

JESSORE, 15th May, 1890.

To

THE TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT,  
EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY,  
Sealdah

SIR,

Heaving that you require a clerk in your office, I beg respectfully to offer myself as a candidate for the post.

In addition to the testimonials enclosed, I am at liberty to refer you personally to the headmaster, Arya Mission School, Calcutta, where I received my education. I have a fair knowledge of English and am acquainted with precis writing and book-keeping. This letter will show you my handwriting.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

KIRTI CHANDRA MAZUMDAR

No 2 —(Applying for a tutorship)

KALPI

29th February, 1892

To

BABU CHANDRA KANT CHAUDHURI,

ZEMINDAR,

Cawnpore

SIR,

Today's "Indian Union" publishes an advertisement to the effect that you require a private tutor for your son to coach him for the Entrance Examination of 1893, in answer to which, I beg leave to offer myself as a candidate.

With reference to my qualifications, I beg to say that I am a B A of the University of Allahabad.

I enclose copies of testimonials which will show how far I have been successful in private teaching.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

MUKTESHWAR SINHA.

No 3.—(Applying for a tutorship)

104, AKHIL MISTRI'S LANE, CALCUTTA :  
*17th July, 1893.*

To

BABU SURYYA KUMAR BISWAS

SIR,

Having read your advertisement in the "Statesman" of yesterday's issue for a private tutor in mathematics, I beg to apply for the situation

I have passed the B A Examination with honors in mathematics, and am at present studying in the 5th year class at the Presidency College

I have had a certain amount of experience in private teaching, as will appear from the enclosed testimonials

If you require my services, I am prepared to devote two hours daily, Sundays and holidays excepted

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

TEJ NARAIN RAE

No 4 —(Applying for a tutorship)

SADARBAZAR, AGRA.  
*12th January, 1894.*

To

ROSHAN LAL, Esq ,

*Allahabad*

SIR,

Having seen your advertisement in to-day's "Morning Post" for a private tutor and supervisor for your children, I venture to offer my services

Anent my qualifications I beg to submit that though I have passed no University Examinations, I possess the other qualification, namely, experience, an experience of four years as a private tutor.

Enclosed copies of testimonials will show how greatly my services were valued by the Taluqdar of Gadia, Baiabanki District, whose children I coached for the University examinations, and by the Raja of Harsinghpur, whose tutor and Secretary I was for more than two years

If you will be so good as to give me the post on probation, I think I shall be able to perform the duties in such a manner as to justify you in making the appointment permanent

Yours obediently,  
RAM SARUP

No 5 —(Applying for a clerkship )

MEERUT

*15th January, 1894*

To

THE CANTONMENT MAGISTRATE,  
MEERUT

SIR,

Being given to understand that you want a junior clerk in your office, I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the situation

I was educated at the Meerut Collegiate School I passed the Entrance Examination of 1889, obtaining a place in the second division

I possess a pretty good acquaintance with accounts, and, as you will observe from this hand-writing, I am a fair penman

I enclose copies of testimonials from the Principal, Meerut College, and some subordinate teachers

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

NAND KISHORE SHARMA

No 6 —(Applying for a clerkship)

JHANSI CITY  
15th February, 1894.

To

THE LOCO SUPERINTENDENT,  
I M. RAILWAY,  
Jhansi.

SIR,

Heaving that there is a vacancy in your office for a clerk, I respectfully beg to offer myself as a candidate for the post

I have passed the English Middle Examination in the First grade, and am now preparing for Matriculation, but as my circumstances do not allow me to prosecute my studies, I beg to offer you my services

Pandit Suraj Bali, Head Clerk in your office, has kindly promised to answer any enquiries that may be made with reference to my merits

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

BEHARI LAL.

No 7 —(Applying for a clerkship)

JOHNSTONGANJ, ALLAHABAD :  
21st March, 1894

To

THE JUDGE,  
SMALL CAUSE COURT,  
Allahabad.

SIR,

Having been informed that your office is in want of a clerk, I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the situation



I passed the Government Anglo-Vernacular Middle Examination in 1891, and the School Final Examination in 1893, obtaining at the latter examination a place in the first grade

I enclose copies of my certificates, which will vouch for my merits and respectability

If you wish to see me before filling up the post I shall be happy to wait on you at any time you may appoint

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,  
ARJUN PANDEY

No 8 —(Applying for an Apprenticeship)

BARABANKI

8th June, 1893.

To

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,

BARABANKI

SIR,

Being informed that you intend admitting some apprentices in the English Department of your Court, I beg respectfully to request that I may be allowed to enter your office to learn the duties of a clerk

My father, Munshi Wasih Muza, is a Municipal Commissioner, and has been in Government service for over twenty years. He is at present at the head of the Court of Wards, and personally known to you

My age is twenty, I was educated at the Canning College, Lucknow. I passed the Anglo-Vernacular Middle Examination in 1889, and the Entrance in 1891. At both the examinations, I was placed in the second grade

I enclose copies of testimonials received from the teachers of the Canning College.

I have the honour to be,  
SIR,  
Your most obedient servant,  
SULTAN MIRZA.

No 9 —(Applying for a teachership)

NAKKHAS, DELHI  
*25th June, 1892.*

To  
THE GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
RIFAH-I-AM SCHOOL

GENTLEMEN,

Understanding that a vacancy for the situation of assistant master in your school has occurred, I beg to offer myself as a candidate for it.

I graduated at the Delhi College in 1890.

From the enclosed testimonials you will perceive that I officiated for a few months as temporary master in the Colvin School, and that my system both of instruction and discipline gave considerable satisfaction.

Should you honour me with your confidence, I trust that by blending kindness with strict regularity and firmness of discipline, I shall give you no cause to regret your choice

I have the honour to be,  
GENTLEMEN,  
Your most obedient servant,  
HARNAM SINHA.

No 10 —(Applying for a tutorship)

ATARSUIYA, ALLAHABAD

15th July, 1892

To

BABU JWALA PERSHAD,

COLONELGANJ.

SIR,

Perceiving by your advertisement in the " Morning Post " of yesterday, that you are in want of a private tutor for your son, I beg to enclose testimonials, and venture to hope that from my previous experience as a tutor, I should be able to give you satisfaction. I am a student of the Muir Central College, reading in the third year class. I should be able to give you any time that you might wish for in the mornings or evenings. In the middle of the day, I shall of course have to attend college. I shall be happy to be informed how many hours I shall have to attend and what salary you will offer, if you may engage my services. Hoping that my application may be successful,

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

RAJ KUMAR LAL

No 11 —(Applying for a teachership)

SANTIPUR

15th June, 1894

To

THE SECRETARY,

MUNICIPAL BOARD,

Santipur

SIR,

Understanding that there is a vacancy in the Municipal School for a teacher, I beg to offer myself to your notice

I was educated at the Ripon College, Calcutta, and am a graduate of the Calcutta University. I passed the Entrance Examination in 1888 in the second division, the First Arts Examination in the first division in 1890, and the Bachelor of Arts Examination also in the first division in 1892. Added to this, I have spent one year at the Bengal Training Institution, and am considered to be well grounded in all the knowledge required for the successful training of the boys for whom you wish to provide education.

Copies of my testimonials are submitted herewith.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant.

JAY KRISHNA MUKERJI.

No 12 —(Applying for a teachership)

4, EZRA STREET, CALCUTTA .

12th June, 1889

To

THE SECRETARY,

ARYA MISSION SCHOOL

Calcutta

SIR

Being informed that the place of second master in your school is vacant I beg leave to offer myself as a candidate for it.

I graduated at the Ripon College in 1886, and have ever since devoted myself to the work of teaching.

Enclosed you will find copies of my testimonials. The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, Proprietor, Ripon College, has very kindly promised to answer any inquiries that may be made respecting my qualifications and character.

I have the honour to be

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

CHANDRA KANTA BASU.

No 13 —(Requesting permission to appear at a competitive examination )

KATRA, ALLAHABAD  
17th March, 1894

To

THE POST MASTER-GENERAL,  
N - W P AND OUDH,  
Lucknow.

SIR,—I see from a notice in to-day's " Pioneer " that you have given orders to candidates for employment in your office to appear at a general examination to be conducted by you May I solicit the favour of your permitting me to appear as a candidate ?

I have studied at the Mun Central College up to the B A standard My age is 22, and I am a Bengali domiciled in these provinces My second language was Persian

A medical certificate is forwarded herewith Mr. Gough, Principal, Mun College, has promised to give you any information that may be needed as to my character and qualifications

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
SRI NATH BAGCHI

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## CHAPTER X

### FORMS OF COMMENCEMENT, CONCLUSION, ETC.

The most difficult parts of a letter to men are generally the first and last sentences For the convenience of students, a list of different varieties of expression in commencing and concluding letters is given below —

#### A — FORMS OF COMMENCEMENT —

I — *Acknowledging letters* —

1 Yours to hand

- 2 Your kind letter came to hand this morning
- 3 Accept my sincere thanks for your favour of yesterday's date.
- 4 I have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your kind letter.
- 5 I am delighted to hear from you
6. Not many things on earth could give me greater pleasure than the contents of your kind note, just to hand.
- 7 Your kind letter afforded me much pleasure.
- 8 I am in due receipt of your affectionate letter
- 9 Your letter duly reached me.
10. Your most welcome letter reached me yesterday.
11. Yours was an unexpected letter, though not the less welcome on that account
- 12 Permit me to give you my heartfelt thanks for your kind letter
- 13 I was agreeably surprised to receive this morning your kind letter
- 14 I never expected your letter, and have been taken by surprise by it
- 15 Your letter has gratified me not a little, and particularly the consideration that you have neglected more important duties to send it me
- 16 I was favoured this forenoon with your obliging letter
- 17 I received yours dated Hazaribagh, 1st April, 1894
- 18 Yours of 24th June is before me
- 19 'As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a distant country'

*II — Apologising for delay in sending letter —*

- 20 Forgive me at once, dear, and ever-dear, friend, my seeming negligence. You cannot sit down and fancy the busy life I lead
- 21 It has been owing to unremitting hurry of business that I have not written to you long ere now
- 22 The hurry of a candidate in this examination season, and the indolence of a student at all times and seasons, will, I hope, plead my excuse for neglecting so long to answer your obliging letter
23. I do not recollect that I have ever felt a severer pang of shame than on looking at the date of your obliging letter
24. Your powers of reprehension must be great indeed, as I assure you they made my heart ache with penitential pangs, even though I was really not guilty
- 25 I confess I have sinned the sin for which there is hardly any forgiveness—ingratitude to friendship—in not writing you sooner, but of all men living, I intended to send you an entertaining letter, and by all the plodding stupid powers, that in nodding concerted majesty preside over the dull routine of business—a heavily solemn oath this!—I am, and have been ever since I came to Lucknow, as unfit to write a letter of humour as to write a genealogy of the Lord Buddha
- 26 The hurry of my preparation for the examination has hindered me from performing my promise so soon as I intended
- 27 I ought in good manners to have acknowledged the receipt of your letter before this time, but my heart was so shocked with the contents of it, that I could scarcely collect my thoughts to write to you on the subject

28. Yours of the 9th current, which I am this moment honoured with, is a deep reproach to me for ungrateful neglect
29. When I tell you that by a fall, not from my horse, but with my horse, I have been a cripple some time, and that this is the first day my arm and hand have been able to serve me in writing, you will allow that it is too good an apology for my seemingly ungrateful silence
30. You will excuse me for my silence, when you consider my hurried life, I can only command scraps of time
31. Do not blame me please for my silence, my own conscience, hackneyed and weather-beaten as it is in watching and reproving my vagaries, follies, indolence, etc., has continued to blame and punish me sufficiently
32. I had been from home, and did not receive your letter until my return yesterday.
33. I am really a bad correspondent, otherwise I should not have allowed your last letter so long to remain unanswered.
34. I should have written to you ere this, but I should do many other things, which I do not
35. One thousand apologies to you and one for my long silence.
36. I had better begin with an apology for my seeming negligence.
37. Better late than never.
38. Whenever I sit down to write to you, I hesitate, for my letter is not even half so interesting as yours.
39. I cannot account for my seeming indifference.



- 40 You like to hear from me , this indeed is a good reason why I should write But I have nothing to say , and is not this an equally good, if not a better, reason, why I should not write ?
- 41 I considered it hardly proper to answer you in a hurry, and so postponed writing you so long
- 42 I beg you not to be angry if you did not hear from me earlier
- 43 Two letters from you have reached me in succession, the second complaining of the neglect shown to the first It is hardly meet that you should tie your friends to such punctual correspondence You have every assurance of my affection and esteem, and must not be offended, if I say nothing, when I have nothing to say
- 44 I blush when I look back to the date of your too-long-unanswered letter , and were I not satisfied that the contents of my sheet of post must always be too unimportant to need apology, I should now readily make one
- 45 I hope you will excuse the long delay I have made in sending the answer
- 46 I am afraid I have trespassed on your patience, if indeed so unimportant a thing as my communication can have given you any thought at all
- 47 I sincerely beg your pardon for my ungrateful disregard of your polite letter The intervening period has been so much taken up, on the one hand, by ill health, and, on the other, by occupations of the most indispensable kind, that I have neglected almost all my friends, and you amongst the rest
48. Thank you for taking the blame of our neglected correspondence on your own shoulders I thought

it rested elsewhere Thrice have I begun to write to you—once in Bengali, and twice in English ; and each time have the fates opposed themselves to the completion of my design We, however, are naturally disposed to forgive, because we are, as far as intention goes, mutual offenders

49. I should have written to you earlier, but then I mislaid your letter and forgot your address
50. Pressure of business did not permit me to send you an earlier reply.

*III—Apologising for writing —*

51. A long time has passed since I wrote to you, and still longer since I heard from you, but you are acquainted with my unceremonious disposition, and will, I hope pardon me for obtaining, an unbidden guest, on your notice
52. Understanding that a line from me will by no means be received unfavourably by you, I make bold to pen the following.
53. It is now many months since I wrote to you, and I have not received any answer. I should not have troubled you with this letter, but then, considering how much I owe to you, I thought the rules and observances of strict etiquette might with moral propriety be dispensed with
54. Nothing short of a kind of absolute necessity could have made me trouble you with this letter
55. I have written to you so often, without receiving any answer, that I would not trouble you again, but for the circumstances in which I am
56. The kind interest you take in me is my apology for troubling you with this letter
57. Accept my apology for this trespass on your valuable time

- 58 As often as I think of writing to you which has been three or four times every week, this six months, it gives me something so like the idea of an ordinary statue offering at a conversation with the Rhodian Colossus, that my mind misgives me, and the affair always miscarries somewhere between purpose and resolve I have, at last, got some business with you, and business-letters are written by the style-book
- 59 I have a good while had a wish to trouble you with a letter, and had certainly done it long ere now, but for a humiliating something that throws cold water on the resolution, as if one should say, "Hem Chandra Babu has got a kind heart, but why take advantage of it?"

*IV—Complaining of silence.—*

- 60 Where are you? And what are you doing? Can you be that son of levity, who takes up a friendship, as he takes up a fashion? Or are you like some other of the worthiest fellows in the world, the victim of indolence, laden with fetters of ever-increasing weight?
- 61 If you care for my peace, you would break your cruel silence
- 62 I have been torturing my philosophy to no purpose to account for your cruel silence
- 63 Did I not hear from Kampta Prasad that you were at Mozuffernagar, and all hale and hearty, I should give you up for lost
- 64 I am a good deal surprised at not having heard from you in answer to my last
- 65 As it costs one but a pice to send an intimation of one's welfare, I wonder why you should not send it
- 66 I am indeed offended with you, and I dare say you know the reason very well.

67. I am impatient to tell you that I am impatient to receive your letter.
68. Truly I am grieved that you should neglect me so greatly.
69. The reason is obvious why you fail to correspond with me . the advantage would be all on my side, without anything to compensate for the trouble on yours.
70. I fancy both you and I wish to experiment which could hold out longer without writing. I confess I am the vanquished party.
71. I cannot account for your long silence. It has made me very anxious, but I hope you are well.
72. A long time has passed since I heard from you.
73. I must say it is exceedingly cruel of you not to answer my enquiries so long.
74. If you will not quote Solomon, I will. He says, and as beautifully as truly—"Hopo deferred maketh the heartsick." I feel how much reason he had on his side, when he made this remark, and am myself sick of your fortnight's delay

#### B—POLITE FORMS OF REQUEST —

75. I should esteem it a great favour, if you would send.
76. I should be highly (much) obliged, if you would send.
77. You would greatly oblige me by sending.
78. May I trouble you to send ?
79. I shall be very much obliged, if you will send.
80. Will (would) you kindly send ?
81. Will (would) you be kind enough to send ?
82. Will (would) you be so kind as to send ?
83. Will (would) you have the goodness to send ?

**C—FORMS OF COMMAND —**

- |     |                                     |   |                  |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 84  | You will be good enough to send     | } | Peremptory       |
| 85  | I will thank you to send            |   |                  |
| 86  | Have the goodness to send.          | } | Less peremptory. |
| 87  | Be good enough to send              |   |                  |
| 88  | Be so kind as to send.              |   |                  |
| 89. | Oblige me my sending                |   |                  |
| 90  | I shall be glad if you will send    | } | Polite.          |
| 91  | I shall be obliged if you will send |   |                  |
| 92  | I should be glad if you would send  |   |                  |
| 93  | I shall be obliged by your sending  |   |                  |
| 94  | Please send                         |   |                  |
| 95  | Kindly send                         |   |                  |

**D—FORMS OF CONCLUSION —****V—Sending love, etc**

- 96 I have by this time tired your patience, so I conclude with begging you to give Munshi Suraj Sabai not my compliments, for that is a mere commonplace story, but my warmest, kindest wishes for his welfare, and accept of the same for yourself, from.  
Dear Sir, yours, etc Adya Peishad.
97. Wishing you all success and prosperity, I am, with real regards and esteem, Dear Sir, yours sincerely,——
- 98 With my very best compliments and good wishes, I remain, in the most comprehensive sense of the word, your very sincere friend,——
- 99 Give my dear brothers and sisters a dozen kisses each for me, and bless, my dear mother, your dutiful and affectionate son,——
- 100 With my *Pronams* to mother, and love to children, I remain, yours affectionately,——
101. With kindest regards to all at home, I remain, now and for ever, yours,——

- 102 With the sincerest wishes for your success in life, I remain, your affectionate brother,——.
103. Wishing you a happy new year and many a return of the same, I am yours most sincerely,——
- 104 Give my love to all, and believe me, your affectionate brother,——
- 105 Accept assurances of the warm affection with which I subscribe myself, your dutiful nephew,——.
- 106 Remember me to all in your house, and believe me yours etc ——
107. We are all well and unite in kind love to you. Believe me, yours etc
- 108 We are well, and hoping you all to be the same, I remain, etc
- 109 Trusting you are enjoying the best of health, I am, yours, etc.——
- 110 Believe me, yours, while life remains,——.
- 111 In haste to catch post, with love, I remain, etc
- 112 I am with great sincerity, your well-wisher,——
- 113 Wishing you all earthly happiness, I remain, etc.
- 114 I have nothing more to tell you for the present, so I close this note with kind love, and remain, your loving brother, Samarth Lal.
115. That you may always continue happy is the most earnest prayer of, etc.
116. Farewell ! Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are gentle, whatsoever things are charitable, whatsoever things are kind, think on them, and think on——.
117. Adieu ! Whenever you are disposed to write a letter, think on, etc.
- 118 Pray let me hear from you at your convenience, and believe me, my dear sir, your friend and fellow-traveller in the tearful sojourn of life,——.

## CHAPTER XI

### A —OUTLINES TO BE EXPANDED INTO LETTERS

#### No. 1 —(To a friend returning a book.)

- 1 Very much grateful for the loan
- 2 The book is now returned
- 3 How you liked the book

#### No. 2 —(Ordering a bookseller for some books )

- 1 A list of the required books
- 2 The books to be sent per rail and the railway receipt per V. P. P
- 3 The weight of the parcel must not exceed—seers.
- 4 The usual discount should be allowed

#### No. 3 —(Complaining to a bookseller of an error in an Invoice )

- 1 Invoice received
- 2 You are charged with 5 copies of Nesfield's Grammar that you neither ordered nor received
- 3 The error should be rectified

#### No. 4 —(Application for tutorship )

- 1 Have seen advertisement for tutor in——, beg leave to apply
- 2 Age, school, experience (if any )
- 3 Character

#### No. 5 —(Recommending a cook )

- 1 Kesho Tewari is willing, honest, capable
- 2 He was in your kitchen for——
- 3 He only did plain cooking , you know nothing of his capacity for fancy cooking.

#### No. 6 —(To a friend about the last summer vacation.)

- 1 Where you spent it
- 2 How you spent it
- 3 With whom you spent it
- 4 Make the same enquiries of your friend

No 7 —(To parents on coming to school for the first time )

- 1 Feel separation from home and friends
2. Have to work hard.
3. Your master and fellow-students all kind ; yet you look forward to first holiday.

No. 8 —(To your father describing Inspector's visit to your school )

1. When the Inspector arrived ; how the headmaster received him.
2. When the Inspector visited your class ; what questions he put you, if your answers gave him satisfaction , what remarks, if any, he made after examining your class.
- 3 Whether the Inspector was pleased with your school

No 9 —(To a friend inviting him to join a rowing party )

1. Next Friday a holiday, you propose a day's boating.
- 2 You are to leave at 4 P M, take boat and row in turns two at a time.
- 3 You hope to be able to muster a party of 9 or 10
- 4 You hope to have a delightful time on the river
- 5 Your friend should write a line to say that he would join you.

No 10 —(To your mother describing your visit to your maternal uncle )

- 1 Your journey to—; when you reached the Rly station, who met you.
- 2 Your arrival at your uncle's ; whom you saw, how you were received
- 3 What you have been doing
- 4 When you think of returning.



No 11 —(Congratulating a friend upon his birthday)

- 1 The anniversary of your friend's seventeenth birthday
- 2 You offer your congratulations and sincere good wishes
- 3 All your friends unite in offering congratulations
- 4 You hope that every succeeding year will find your friend happier

No 12 —(Applying to teacher for leave for absence)

- 1 You have been suffering from——since last night ; feel too weak to attend school
- 2 You send your exercise book through——
- 3 You hope to be able to attend school to-morrow

No 13 —(Applying for extension of leave)

- 1 You have not yet recovered fully from the effects of——.
- 2 Medical certificate is enclosed
- 3 Ask for an extension of leave for a week

No. 14 —(Applying for remission of tuition fee)

- 1 Your guardian has come under reduction
- 2 You regularly paid tuition fee and all other dues of the school
- 3 For the present you are not in a position to pay , request the favour of being exempted
- 4 Offer your thanks for all past kindness

No 15.—(Inviting a friend)

- 1 A dinner party to be held on 24th Instant at 11 o'clock
- 2 Your birthday, several friends coming
- 3 Dinner in orchard, then cricket in field
- 4 Hope your friend will be able to come by 10.

No. 16 —(Accepting Invitation.)

1. Thanks for invitation ; happy to be able to accept
2. Hope to have a jolly party.

No. 17.—(Declining Invitation )

1. Thanks for invitation ; are very sorry for your inability to accept.
- 2 Sorry to lose chance of passing a pleasant day, but have to attend school and there is no help.
3. Hope your friend will have a jolly party and many happy returns.

No. 18.—(To a relative offering thanks for a present )

1. Are simply delighted to receive the watch.
2. Often wished for it ; will take great care of it.
- 3 Will never look at it without thinking of the kind giver

No 19.—(To teacher apologising for a favour asked for.)

1. Had applied for a tutorship.
- 2 Were asked to name some one who might speak as to qualifications.
3. Took the liberty to name your teacher.
- 4 Hope to be excused.

No 20 —(Thanking a teacher for past kindness.)

1. An opening having occurred and circumstances not permitting to prosecute your studies, request permission to leave school.
2. Offer thanks for all past kindness.
3. Never shall forget all you owe to your teacher ; shall always try to do credit to your school.

B—SUBJECTS FOR LETTERS

1. Your last examination
2. Any fair which you have seen
3. A request to the manager of a carpet factory to show your party over his factory.
4. What you propose doing during the next summer vacation.
5. A description of Durga Puja to a friend who lives in a place where Durga Puja is not much regarded.
6. A day at your school.
7. A holiday
8. A cricket match.
9. Any journey which you have made.
10. Why you love your friend——so much
11. Thanks to your uncle for presenting you with books.
12. A note to your friend inviting him to join in a pleasure trip.
13. How you spent your Ramlila holidays
14. A letter acknowledging receipt of books from a school book depot.
15. A letter to your friend inviting him to spend his holidays with you
16. To a neighbour enquiring about the character of a servant.

FINIS

